FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 154 *9 August 1983*

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Ninth OLADE Meeting Convenes in Managua A 1
Uruguayan, Brazilian Ministers Arrive A 1
INE Director Opens Meeting A 1
Oil Supply Discussed A 1
International Financial Experts Meet in Ecuador A 1
Suriname Envoy Scores CARICOM Membership Ban A 2

ARGENTINA

Havana Reports Pro-Nicaragua Demonstration B 1
French Communist Party Delegation Visits PCA B 1
[Paris L'HUMANITE 28 Jul]
PRC Health Delegation Arrives, Holds Meetings B 1
Peruvian Navy Commander on Visit, Meets Bignone B 1
Ceremony Marks Advances in Arms Industries B 2
[LA PRENSA 2 Aug]
Chaco Province Flood Damage at $450 Million B 2

BOLIVIA

Military To Run Defense, Aeronautics Ministries C 1
Government Implements Salary Regulations C 1
Diplomatic Relations With Grenada, Bahamas C 1
BERNAMA Reports Bolivia To Join Tin Cartel C 2
[Kuala Lumpur]
Briefs: Mexican Trade Agreement; Gas Exports to Argentina; YPFB Sales, Volumes; Oil, Natural Gas Production C 2

BRAZIL

Foreign Minister Meets Suriname's Alibux 5 Aug D 1
Aid Plans Discussed [O GLOBO 5 Aug] D 1
More on Alibux Visit [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 5 Aug] D 1
Mexican Foreign Secretary Concludes 3-Day Visit D 2

CHILE

Italian Legislators Denied Entrance to Country E 1
Foreign Ministry Denies Spying Charge in Peru E 1
CNT Calls for Participation in National Protest E 1
Rightwing Party Congressmen Create New Front E 2
Atacama Intendant Lifts Vehicle Restrictions E 2
[EL MERCURIO 31 Jul]
Gabriel Valdes on Release of Oppositionists E 2
[Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 25 Jul]

COLOMBIA

Betancur Installs Ministers, Notes Guatemala Coup F 1
Betancur Marks First Anniversary in Power F 1
M-19 Commander Capera Killed in Caqueta F 1

ECUADOR

Sixth Candidate Joins Presidential Race G 1
Armed Forces Joint Command Chief Appointed G 1

PARAGUAY

Government Releases Political Prisoners H 1
[ULTIMA HORA 3 Aug]
Police Break Up Peaceful Demonstration 7 Aug H 1
[ABC COLOR 8 Aug]
President Congratulates Bolivia on National Day H 2
[HOY 7 Aug]
Church Leader Reacts to Closure of Radio Station H 2
[ABC COLOR 5 Aug]
Briefs: New Magazine; Itaipu Cost Updated; H 3
Indonesian Ambassador Presents Credentials;
Taiwanese Congressional Visit

PERU

Belaunde Terry on Terrorism, Drug Trafficking J 1
President Installs New Government Officials J 1
Economy Minister Rodriguez Addresses Nation J 1

VENEZUELA

USSR's Fokin Discusses Central America L 1

MEXICO

Schedule for President Reagan's Visit Announced M 1
Havana Notes C.A. Position M 1
De la Madrid Addresses Tijuana Residents M 1
Mexico-USSR Foreign Policy Concurrences M 2
[UNOMASUNO 3 Aug]
Visiting Costa Rican Envoy Scores U.S. Policy M 2

PANAMA

De la Espriella To Return Electoral Code Bill N 1
PALA Nominates Paredes as Presidential Candidate N 1
Christian Democrats Hold Provincial Congress N 2
PAPO Leader Warns Against Military Candidacy N 2
[YA 5 Aug]
Official PRD Communique Rejects Charges N 3
[MATUTINO 5 Aug]
Alarm at Beef Sales Loss to U.S. 'Justifiable' N 4
[LA REPUBLICA 5 Aug]

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Army Begins New Operation in San Vicente P 1
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 8 Aug]
Violence Linked to Rebels' Desire for Talks P 1
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 8 Aug]
Venceremos on Military Maneuvers, Talks P 2
Venceremos Appeals for Militia Recruits P 2

GUATEMALA

Further Reports on Coup, Installment of Mejia P 2
Rios Montt Will Not Concede [Managua] P 2
Rios Montt's Whereabouts Unclear P 3
Further on Rios Montt P 3
Army Surrounds Palace Area [DPA] P 4
Mejia's Inauguration Prepared P 4
1-Hour Truce Declared P 5
Decree Names Head of State P 5
Mejia Gives Inaugural Speech P 6
Mejia Holds Press Conference P 8
Biography of Mejia Victores P 9
Army Launches 'Recovery' P 10
23 March Aims Cited P 10
Army 'Certain' of Support P 10
People Told To Stay Calm P 10
Previous Actions To Be Reviewed P 11
Relations With U.S. Viewed P 11
C.A. Leaders React to Coup P 12
Exiles Respond to Coup P 12

HONDURAS

Government Recognizes New Guatemalan Government P 13
Religious Groups Say Repression Increasing P 14
[Mexico City UNOMASUNO 6 Aug]

NICARAGUA

Ortega Links U.S. Warships to Guatemalan Coup P 14
Maneuvers Seen as U.S. 'Gunboat Diplomacy' P 14
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 4 Aug]
Ortega on Willingness To Talk With U.S. P 15
Conditions for Negotiations [Havana] P 15
Daniel Ortega Receives Mexican Official [Havana] P 16
D'Escoto Reports on Meeting With Cheysson P 16
People's Tribunal Group Ends Visit, Departs P 17
New Chief of Border Guard Troops Appointed P 17
Miskitos 'Forced' Into Opposition Activities P 17
PSD Proposal to FSLN Labelled 'Coup Attempt' P 17
Commentary Rejects 'Bogus' Proposal P 18
PCD Favors Dialogue for Regional Peace P 19
Communists View Negotiations P 19
Defense Ministry Reports on Recent Clashes P 20

Battalion 60-11 Defeats Somozists in Yali P 20
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 3 Aug]
Opposition Chiefs Review National Situation P 21
[Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 26 Jul]
ARDE Declaration Condemns Ships' Presence P 23
Voice of Sandino on Cuban 'Mercenaries' P 23

CUBA

Overthrow of Guatemala's Rios Montt Reported Q 1
Party Leader Reacts [NOTIMEX] Q 1
Further Reportage on French Foreign Minister Q 1
Cheysson Satisfied With Visit Q 1
Concludes Visit Q 2
USSR-Cuban Trade To Exceed R6.5 Billion in 1983 Q 2
Mexican Center Signs Cooperation Agreement Q 3
Comprehensive Aid Program to Grenada Reviewed Q 3
Fernandez Sees Teachers Group Off for Angola Q 4
Delegate Scores U.S., South Africa in Geneva Q 4
Puerto Rico's Socialist Leader Interviewed Q 4
Briefs: Women in Camaguey Militia Q 5

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Cuban Sociologists Arrested, To Be Expelled R 1
Haitian Charged With Arms Smuggling Freed R 1
Briefs: Costa Rican Minister Visits; R 1
Vice Secretary Suspended

CARIBBEAN

BAHAMAS

Cuban Ships Seized for Illegal Fishing S 1
[THE TRIBUNE 30 Jul]

DOMINICA

Charles Says CSA's Savarin To Replace Minister S 1

GRENADA

U.S. Detention of Jamaican Communist Protested S 2

HAITI

President Reacts to AIDS, To Deport Homosexuals S 2

JAMAICA

Prime Minister Seaga Praises U.S. CBI Trade Bill S 2
[THE DAILY GLEANER 29 Jul]
Foresees Trade Development S 3
[THE DAILY GLEANER 30 Jul]
Briefs: Air Jamaica Retrenchment S 3

MARTINIQUE

Bomb Explodes in Public Works Office S 3

NINTH OLADE MEETING CONVENES IN MANAGUA

Uruguayan, Brazilian Ministers Arrive

PA040415 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Uruguayan Industry and Energy Minister Juan Antonio Chiarino Rossi has arrived in Managua, accompanied by Brazilian Mining and Energy Minister Cesar Cals de Oliveira, to participate in the ninth OLADE meeting, which will begin tomorrow at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center.

Their delegation was met at Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport by Emilio Rappaccioli, minister director of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute. They made statements for the national and international media upon their arrival.

INE Director Opens Meeting

PA051357 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Emilio Rappaccioli, minister director of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, INE, today inaugurated the ninth OLADE ministers committee meeting and asked for increased cooperation to confront common problems. In his speech, Rappaccioli noted that Nicaraguan energy projects have suffered losses surpassing $500 million as a result of U.S. sabotage and counterrevolutionary armed actions.

An energy plan for Central America, to be implemented in January 1984, is expected to be ready tonight.

Oil Supply Discussed

PA060200 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] An increase in the supply of oil to OLADE members and to countries of the region, and the renewal of the San Jose Agreement, now in its 4th year, were among the subjects included on the agenda of the ninth OLADE ministers meeting, which ended today at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua.

The energy ministers of Barbados, Brazil, Nicaragua, Mexico, Uruguay, and Venezuela attended the 2-day meeting. OLADE was represented by Executive Secretary Ulises Ramirez Olmos.

It was announced that studies would begin on the excess of fuel oil, oil-refining capacity, the transportation of crude, and the training of the personnel necessary to deal with energy development for the region.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL EXPERTS MEET IN ECUADOR

PA040105 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Representatives from 34 international organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean will begin meeting here today with the object of assessing and establishing regulations to govern the region's banking and financial behavior.

According to official reports, the meeting will be opened by President Oswaldo Hurtado. The representatives attending have been organized by the banks superintendency into the Third Convention of Latin American and Caribbean Banking Supervisory Organizations.

The opening ceremony will take place at 1200. In addition to the president, Cabinet members, accredited ambassadors, and banking supervision delegates from Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Spain, Puerto Rico, and countries that have not yet subscribed to the commission's statutes -- such as the Cayman Islands, Colombia, and Mexico -- will be present at the inauguration.

SURINAME ENVOY SCORES CARICOM MEMBERSHIP BAN

FL051006 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0200 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic -- The special representative of the Suriname head of state, Ambassador (Arnekus Heidweiller), at the recently celebrated meeting of head of state special representatives held this week in Santo Domingo, last night criticized the Caribbean community organization, CARICOM, for not having accepted Suriname, Dominican Republic, and Haiti as members of the organization.

Ambassador (Heidweiller) said that the actual leaders of CARICOM have forgotten that the founder of the idea of Caribbean cooperation, the unforgettable Eric Williams, he said, dreamed of a much wider cooperation which would include Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Suriname. The Suriname ambassador avoided the (?fact) that Suriname was not admitted under the allegement that it had a Marxist government, but said that if it had been, they would not deny it, since he does not think that that would be a capital sin.

Ambassador (Heidweiller) further stressed the point that the region's economic problems would find solutions if each (?original) commerce is supported and if all Caribbean and Latin American nations would concentrate on regional cooperation.

HAVANA REPORTS PRO-NICARAGUA DEMONSTRATION

FA071910 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] Thousands of Argentine youths participated in a demonstration in front of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Buenos Aires to express their militant solidarity with the Nicaraguan people in the face of the U.S. threats.

FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION VISITS PCA

PM011300 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 28 Jul 83 p 6

[Text] At the invitation of the Communist Party of Argentina [PCA], a PCF delegation has visited Buenos Aires. Composed of Central Committee member Marcel Trignon and Central Committee aide Jean Ortiz, it had lengthy talks with the PCA leadership. The PCA drew attention to the rapid growth in PCA membership and Communist youth membership. It pointed out the importance of its official, legal, political, and electoral recognition as a national party. "This underlines its role in the country's life and within the broad patriotic, anticolonialist and anti-imperialist movement, which can set the nation on the road back to democratic institutions and freedoms, independence, and national sovereignty." The PCF expressed its solidarity with the PCA, the Argentine people, and the democratic process, the result of its lengthy struggle.

PRC HEALTH DELEGATION ARRIVES, HOLDS MEETINGS

PY081924 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpt] A PRC health delegation headed by the PRC deputy minister of public health has arrived in the country. During a (?3-day) visit, the delegation will visit hospitals and study the functioning of the Argentine health system. They will also hold work meetings with national authorities and with Health Minister Horacio Rodriguez Castells. The PRC delegation is made up of the deputy minister of public health and the deputy governor of [word indistinct] province.

PERUVIAN NAVY COMMANDER ON VISIT, MEETS BIGNONE

PY081930 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Peruvian Navy Commander Vice Admiral Ricardo Zevallos Newton is visiting Argentina. He is accompanied by his secretary, Rear Admiral Raul Parra Maza, and his aide, Captain Frank T. Boyle Alvarado.

This morning, Zevallos Newton paid a protocol visit to the Peruvian ambassador to Argentina, to the Buenos Aires mayor, to the Air Force and Army commanders, and to the defense minister. At noon the Peruvian navy commander was received in a special meeting by President Bignone, and a few minutes ago he arrived at Libertad Building, Navy headquarters, where he is having lunch with his Argentine counterpart, Admiral Ruben Oscar Franco.

CEREMONY MARKS ADVANCES IN ARMS INDUSTRIES

PY041300 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Aug 83 p 4

[Text] General Horacio Varela Ortiz, national director of Fabricaciones Militares, has announced that "the construction of a plant to produce high-resistant steel, a project that is quite advanced, will make it possible for us to manufacture artillery pieces of any caliber, an advantage that few nations enjoy."

Gen Varela Ortiz spoke during a ceremony marking the day devoted to the steel industry and the 35th anniversary of the death of General Manuel Savio, the promoter of the industry. The ceremony, which took place at the General San Martin military factory, was attended by the commander in chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Cristino Nicolaides, Defense Minister Dr Julio Martinez Vivot, and other officials.

The modernization of plants, Gen Varela Ortiz noted, has led to the production of "high-quality steel used in the manufacture of heavy arms. In the past, Argentina had to buy such materials abroad."

After outlining the achievements of Gen Savio, Gen Varela Ortiz reported that "prospecting for minerals is underway based on the firm decision to develop large-scale mining production and to strengthen our manufacturing sector."

Gen Varela also referred to the Antarctic geological mining program, the Bajo La Alumbrera copper and gold project, the Aguas de Dionisio deposits, the Hombre Muerto salt mine in Catamarca, where lithium and potassium have been detected, and other mining projects.

Concerning the steel sector, he noted that studies are being made to use slag from the Zapla and SOMISA (Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association) blast furnaces in the production of cement. He also said that efforts are being made to reactivate the Bahia Blanca petrochemical industry.

Gen Varela Ortiz reported that Fabricaciones Militares exported $56 million worth of equipment in 1982.

CHACO PROVINCE FLOOD DAMAGE AT $450 MILLION

PY061726 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] The situation throughout the large portion of the national territory, affected by the most serious and longest floods of the century, is very serious.

In Chaco Province, a preliminary estimate of the disaster shows that about $450 million must be invested to repair the damage to the public infrastructure, to the farming and cattlebreeding sectors, and in the building of new housing. Almost 60 percent of the 99,000 square kilometers of the province has been flooded, and it is estimated that losses in the rural areas are complete. The number of evacuated persons totals about 270,000, that is, over 20 percent of the population of the province. There are towns that have been totally destroyed by the waters; one example is Puerto Bermejo, whose refounding is being studied. Over 80,000 people in Chaco Province are homeless, and the violent floods have swept away the temporary huts that were built along the Paraguay, Negro, Bermejo, and Parana Rivers. The provincial authorities are studying several courses of action to meet the serious situation.

MILITARY TO RUN DEFENSE, AERONAUTICS MINISTRIES

PY082219 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Upon being questioned by the Panamericana radio announcer about the request made by the military that the Ministry of Defense be run by the military, General Lucio Anez Rivera, chief of staff of the Armed Forces Command, said that this proposal had already been accepted by the president. This way the Army will effectively participate in the administration, Gen Anez stressed.

[Begin Anez recording] I would not say that we are demanding it; I would say rather that his excellency has been approached and that his excellency fully agrees that the military run the Defense Ministry and the Aeronautics Ministry. [end recording]

From reliable sources, Panamericana has been able to learn that Gen Anez will be the next defense minister. In addition, government sources have confirmed the resignation of Aeronautics Minister General Oscar Villa Urioste, who could be replaced by General (Jaime Nino de Guzman).

GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTS SALARY REGULATIONS

PY051815 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The government has released the regulations that will rule the country's new salary policy, which has been modified due to an inflationary spiral that reached 40 percent. The regulations are contained in Supreme Decree 19,714, dated today, which takes into account the fact that, between 28 February and 6 March and between 11 and 17 July 1983, inflation increased 41 percent, according to an official report that has been released by the National Statistics Institute.

The government had provided for this modification through Supreme Decree 19,462, dated 15 March 1983, when in Article 6 it established the implementation of an escalation clause for salaries and wages. This escalation clause will be applied every 6 months or when the consumer price index goes up 40 percent. In both cases, the escalation clause will go into effect automatically in order to prevent a loss in the purchasing power of the workers' salary or wage.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GRENADA, BAHAMAS

PY060318 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] The Bolivian Government today established diplomatic relations with the Governments of the Bahamas and Grenada, according to simultaneous reports released by the foreign ministries of these countries. The Foreign Ministry's Press and Public Relations Department in La Paz released a communique to the mass media which reads: The Foreign Affairs and Worship Ministry has the pleasure to announce that Bolivia has established diplomatic relations with the Governments of the Bahamas and Grenada, through joint declarations signed on 5 August at OAS headquarters in Washington.

The negotiations for establishing diplomatic relations were conducted by the permanent representatives of these countries to the OAS. Ambassador Fernando Salazar Paredes signed both joint declarations on behalf of Bolivia.

Essentially, these declarations have similar wording, the Foreign Ministry's communique reported, as follows: The governments of Bolivia and Grenada, and the commonwealth of the Bahama Islands, prompted by a common will to cooperate as members of the United Nations and the OAS for the achievement of international peace and solidarity, and with the goal of strengthening the existing ties of friendship between the two countries, have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of the date of issuance of the present joint declarations.

BERNAMA REPORTS BOLIVIA TO JOIN TIN CARTEL

BK0081442 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Bolivia, the fourth largest tin producer in the world, is to join the Association of Tin Producing Countries. A BERNAMA report said the decision was made last week and the country will sign the pact in Bangkok soon. It is understood that Bolivia will sign the agreement before the 16th of this month -- the date the association will formally come into existence. Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand signed the agreement on the 17th of June, in Bangkok.

BRIEFS

MEXICAN TRADE AGREEMENT -- It was officially disclosed in La Paz today that, according to the trade agreement signed between the Mexican Trade Under Secretariat and the Bolivian Integration Ministry, Bolivia will be able to export a total of 120 products to Mexico, with a 90- to 100-percent discount on export taxes. The trade agreement signed between the two countries has a duration of 9 years which can be automatically extended for the same period. Bolivia, through this agreement, will grant a 50- and 60-percent tax discount on some 90 Mexican products. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2146 GMT 1 Aug 83 PY]

GAS EXPORTS TO ARGENTINA -- According to the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits, exports of natural gas to Argentina during the January-June period this year were worth $178,995,159, while exports to Brazil for this same period amounted to $3,773,036. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Jul 83 p 9 PY]

YPFB SALES, VOLUMES -- Over the first half of this year, YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] has marketed a total of 54,099,517 liters of kerosene, worth 432,802,036 Bolivian pesos. Premium gas sales recorded 202,185,456 liters, worth 5,054,653,162 Bolivian pesos. With regard to natural gas for home use, a total of 64,397,490 kg were sold, worth 110,414,168 Bolivian pesos. As compared to 1982 figures for the same period, a decline in volume has been noticed. [Excerpts] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 83 PY]

OIL, NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION -- Bolivian Government Oil Deposits, YPFB, has disclosed that its two oil contractors, Tesoro Bolivia and Occidental, reported the following oil production. January: 284,500 barrels; February 253,897 barrels; March 608,027 barrels; April 567,688 barrels; May 667,535 barrels; and June 686,776 barrels. Natural gas production was the following: January: 5,340,525,000 cubic feet; April: 3,926,207,000 cubic feet; May: 4,373,101,000 cubic feet; and June: 5,042,135,000 cubic feet. [Summary] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Aug 83 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS SURINAME'S ALIBUX 5 AUG

PY051821 Paris AFP in Spanish 0432 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Brasilia, 4 Aug (AFP) -- Surinamese Prime Minister Errol Alibux and Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro today met in Brasilia to study bilateral relations. Alibux, who last May made an official visit to Brazil, returned to this country at the end of July on a private visit. He is taking advantage of an invitation extended to him by the Brazilian foreign minister during his first visit.

The upgrading of cooperation between Brazil and Suriname was decided last April when General Danilo Venturini, one of Brazilian President General Joao Figueiredo's closest advisers, visited Paramaribo.

After exchanging several visits during 1982 -- Colonel Deysi Bouterse to Brasilia and Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro to Paramaribo -- the two countries decided to launch a vast cooperation program that includes land communications, air transport, agriculture, research in the mining sector, and military training.

On the occasion of his official visit to Brazil last May, Alibux stated in Brasilia that his country would primarily resort to Brazil to satisfy its needs in every sector, including the military.

Aid Plans Discussed

PY061203 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Aug 83 p 4

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Suriname's Prime Minister Errol Alibux met with Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro for more than an hour yesterday. During the meeting, Alibux and Saraiva Guerreiro discussed the technical, economic, and military cooperation plans being implemented by Suriname and Brazil. The cooperation plans, which are a necessity for Suriname, are of political interest to Brazil. The Brazilian Government is seeking to give this aid to its neighbor country to prevent it from having to request aid from Cuba.

While Alibux was meeting with Saraiva Guerreiro, a Brazilian Government mission that was sent to Suriname signed an agricultural cooperation agreement between the two countries.

More On Alibux Visit

PY061733 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Aug 83 p 5

[Excerpts] During a meeting he held yesterday with Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, Surinamese Prime Minister Errol Alibux made a thorough review of his country's political and economic situation. The meeting was held an hour before a reception Saraiva Guerreiro hosted in Itamaraty honoring the visitor.

Alibux's visit was unofficial; he is on vacation, taking a tourist trip around Brazil. Before leaving Paramaribo, he let the Brazilian Government know, through diplomatic channels, that he would travel to Brazil to visit, among other states, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. He noted that despite being on vacation he would agree "to hold talks." Itamaraty received and understood the message.

Alibux is reported to have been "pleased" to accept the invitation extended by Itamaraty. He and Saraiva Guerreiro discussed bilateral cooperation in general terms. Meanwhile, a Brazilian mission in Paramaribo signed an act outlining a program of assistance to the agricultural sector.

The Brazilian Government is satisfied with the course that the Bouterse regime is following. One of the first political gestures by Suriname following the Venturini mission was the dismissal of People's Mobilization Minister Sital, who was considered to be the most enthusiastic supporter of Cuba within the Surinamese Government. Sital used his post to talk favorably of the Fidel Castro regime and to win supporters for his cause. After Venturini's trip to Paramaribo, Sital became an "unwanted minister" and was dismissed.

Alibux is considered "Brazil's man" in Suriname's power structure, just as Sital was "Cuba's man." Alibux is now looked upon as the third man in importance in the regime. Number One is Bouterse, the "strongman" who rules the country and combines the functions as head of the National Reconstruction Movement and commander of the Armed Forces. Number Two is the Army minister, a man who enjoys Bouterse's full confidence. Number Three is Alibux who, in addition to being very active in domestic politics, dedicates himself to diplomacy. He is the liaison man between Bouterse's regime and the Figueiredo government.

MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY CONCLUDES 3-DAY VISIT

FL052206 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2100 GMT 5 Jul 83

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- The Foreign Relations Secretariat announced here today that the foreign ministers of Mexico and Brazil, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, had reached encouraging conclusions on the situation in Central America.

At the end of a 3-day visit by the Mexican secretary of foreign relations to Brazil, both diplomats agreed that it was necessary for their governments to continue making every effort to achieve a political solution to the Central American conflict.

Sepulveda and Saraiva Guerriero expressed concern over the increase in tension and international conflicts, as well as the international economic crisis.

The Mexican secretary expressed thanks for the support the Brazilian Government has given the Contadora Group's (Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela) peace measures to prevent the situation in Central America from worsening.

The Brazilian diplomat repeated his conviction that the Contadora peace measures are an important means for the solution of the crisis in that region.

Regarding bilateral relations between Mexico and Brazil, the officials agreed to strengthen and continue efforts to improve trade between both countries and to promote industrial talks to promote this objective. Moreover, they examined aspects of the visit by a Mexican trade commission to Brazil next September.

ITALIAN LEGISLATORS DENIED ENTRANCE TO COUNTRY

PY051849 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] The government has confirmed that two Italian legislators, members of the communist party, were not allowed to enter the country. The Foreign Ministry has issued the following communique in this regard:

1. In keeping with the laws in force concerning foreigners, communist party legislators Pangracio de Pascuali and Guido Santi, who are members of the European Parliament, have not been allowed to enter the country. The persons in question were accompanied by (Maria Gracia la Franco Fanti) and (Silvana Pamela), who decided not to enter the country.

2. On the other hand, (Perini), (Barballi), (Maccionhi), and (Glinee) entered the country. In spite of the measure which affected the aforementioned communist legislators, representatives with democratic trends were allowed to enter the country.

3. Despite the fact that there have been reports from Argentina which state that some of the European legislators have carried out activities that obviously interfered in the domestic affairs of that country, the government has allowed them to enter the country since they have claimed to be in Chile on a private visit for tourist purposes. The government hopes that this visit will be in keeping with this purpose.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES SPYING CHARGE IN PERU

PY060057 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] (Oscar Fuentes), director of the Foreign Ministry Bilateral Policy Department, has denied a report that a Chilean citizen was engaged in espionage operations in Peru. The Foreign Ministry official said that the report was categorically denied by Tacna Mayor (Augusto Lazo), by the head of the Peruvian political police, and by the head of the immigration service. (Fuentes) said that the Peruvian officials remarked that such sensationalist reports harm the good relations between the two countries.

CNT CALLS FOR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL PROTEST

PY090054 Paris AFP in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 9 Aug (AFP) -- It has been officially reported that the National Workers Command (CNT) today called on the people to participate in the fourth national protest scheduled for next Thursday against the Chilean military regime. The CNT asked the Chilean people to participate in the peaceful protest, which is aimed at restoring democracy and a state of law to Chile.

The powerful labor union, which is made up of the Confederation of Copper Workers (CTC), the National Coordinating Board of Trade Unions (CNS), the Democratic Union of Workers (UDT), the National Association of Government Employees (ANEF), and the Chilean Confederation of Private Sector Employees (CEPCH), asked the people to particiate actively in the protest.

RIGHTWING PARTY CONGRESSMEN CREATE NEW FRONT

PY082230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1608 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 7 Aug (EFE) -- The newspaper LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS of Santiago today reported that congressmen of the former National Party, of the right, have announced the creation of a constitutional front for democracy in Chile.

The newspaper states that the new political organization, which will release an official communique tomorrow, Monday, was inspired and created by former Senator Fernando Ochagavia, "as a coalition of parties of the right."

The new constitutional front, according to its supporters, advocated the retention of current Interior Minister General Enrique Montero in his post, and respect for the 1980 Constitution "as far as the legitimacy of the government is concerned with regard to the terms established by the Constitution."

After pointing out its rejection of the Communist Party, "even though it has promised to act in a democratic manner," the constitutional front recommends "the careful application of the prerogatives granted by the Constitution to the executive branch during the transitional period and which affect the constitutional guarantees."

Included among the members of the constitutional front for democracy are former Congressmen Fernando Ochagavia, Sergio Diez, Hermogenes Perez de Arce, Edmundo Eluchans, Jorge Ivan Hubner, and Julio von Mulembruck.

ATACAMA INTENDANT LIFTS VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

PY041405 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 31 Jul 83 p C-11

[Text] Copiapo -- Colonel Alejandro Gonzalez Samohod, intendant of the Atacama Region and chief of the State of Emergency Zone, has lifted the vehicle restrictions in this region for weekends and on the eve of holidays. He also cancelled the military control over the Diego de Almagro community and El Salvador.

The intendant emphasized that this decision was made because tranquillity and order prevail in the region.

GABRIEL VALDES ON RELEASE OF OPPOSITIONISTS

PM071912 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 25 Jul 83 p 8

[Telephone interview with Chilean Christian Democratic Party Chairman Gabriel Valdes by Santiago Palacios -- date not given]

[Text] Buenos Aires -- "Under a regime such as the one ruling Chile it is impossible to imagine an independent judiciary. Most judiciary members -- although not all -- are subject to pressures from power groups or through belonging to that elitist and exclusive power group which has run the country for a decade," Chilean Christian Democratic Party Chairman Gabriel Valdes, who was elected party leader following the death of one of the founders of that political group -- former President Eduardo Frei -- told LA VANGUARDIA in a telephone conversation.

However -- and here is the apparent inconsistency -- the court of appeal granted an application for release, after 5 days' detention, to Valdes, Christian Democratic Party Secretary General Jorge Lavandero, and leader Julio de Gregorio, in addition to another three young members of the Christian Democratic Movement.

Question: How do you explain the granting of the habeas corpus which enabled you to regain your freedom?

Answer: Pinochet made a grave political mistake; he did not assess the consequences of the international repercussions entailed by the detention of Christian Democratic leaders as if they were terrorists, subversives, guerrillas, or common criminals. He alleged a violation of the contentious state security law.

Question: Why do you think General Pinochet did not assess those consequences?

Answer: There are several reasons. One is that he found himself overtaken by a popular movement which is slowly and gradually becoming aware of reality. It is as if it has awakened suddenly after several years of mental anaesthesia caused by the implacable repression and indoctrination to which it was subjected by the regime. The collision with that reality was like an electrical current applied to the backbone of the whole of Chilean society, irrespective of classes. And the civil protest -- I would say 90 percent peaceful -- spread. That succession of actions repeated every month, after many years of acquiescent or enforced silence, finally unbalanced the dictatorship. Another cause is Chile's objective state: it is not only the economic crisis -- which could bring relief to some extent to the most submerged classes if the political will to change course and model existed -- but the moral crisis and crisis of values, which are tantamount to perpetual torture. This is the basis on which the loss of fear of repression -- totalitarians' sole weapon -- was founded.

Question: What factors do you believe are influencing the current changes in the state of affairs within Chile?

Answer: It was important because of the international community's realization of the Chilean situation -- especially that of the EEC countries -- and the tough terms of the statement by the Spanish Socialist Workers Party and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzelez' government. Pinochet's isolation has prompted sharp repercussions among his supporters and his close court entourage. We know that there is a vast sector of the armed forces which, in addition to suffering the harsh economic conditions, is beginning to disagree with the methods of exercising power and with the stages planned for perpetuating the injustices and privileges. Pinochet, aware that the present-day world necessitates membership in the international community of nations, preferred to step aside and allow justice to release some of the detainees.

Question: But the Ministry of the Interior appealed against the release judgment.

Answer: This is nothing but an attempt to prove that the machinery of justice functions independently of the central government.

BETANCUR INSTALLS MINISTERS, NOTES GUATEMALA COUP

PA081834 Paris AFP in Spanish 1807 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 8 Aug (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur at noon today in Bogota confirmed that a coup had been staged today in Guatemala.

"A coup was staged in Guatemala a few minutes ago," Betancur said at the installation of the new ministers of agriculture, Gustavo Castro Guerrero; finance, Edgar Gutierrez; and justice, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

According to the Colombian president, who has launched a campaign to achieve peace in Central America, the situation in Guatemala today "modifies the situation." Betancur met in Guatemala City with now-ousted President Efrain Rios Montt a week ago in an effort to consolidate peace plans for Central America.

BETANCUR MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN POWER

PA080400 Paris AFP in Spanish 0250 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 7 Aug (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur today commemorated his first year in government with a speech at the Cadets School in which he reiterated his democratic spirit.

The chief of state took advantage of Army Day and the anniversary of the Boyaca Battle, which in 1819 sealed independence from Spanish domination of what is today Colombia, to pay tribute to the loyalty and professionalism of the Armed Forces, decorating many ranking officers, including six brigadier generals. Betancur reiterated his renewed respect for the armed forces and the law, and he appealed once more for (?peace) in the country, calling on all Colombians to aid in rehabilitating all sectors of the fatherland.

M-19 COMMANDER CAPERA KILLED IN CAQUETA

PA062335 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Report by journalist Carlos Gomez Herrera]

[Text] Jairo Capera Diaz, alias Orlando, a well-known guerrilla leader and commander of the 19 April Movement, M-19, Southern Front in El Caqueta, was killed a few hours ago by troops of the Juanambu Battalion, in collaboration with units of 12th Operations Command, under Colonel Nieble.

As you may recall, Jairo Capera Diaz had been granted amnesty by the Florencia Superior Court, but he refused to accept it. You may also recall that some time ago, a local newspaper published a photograph showing Jairo Capera Diaz executing two individuals whom the M-19 had declared infiltrators. Two journalists who had been kidnapped by the M-19 witnessed this horrible crime carried out by Capera Diaz.

For some time, government intelligence agents had been conducting special operations in the southern part of the country, especially in El Caqueta, in an effort to find Jairo Capera Diaz. The search has culminated in his death at the hands of troops of the 12th Operations Command.

Jairo Capera Diaz deserted the Juanambu Battalion some years ago and joined the subversive movement. His death is another hard blow to M-19, considering that its leader, Jaime Bateman, also died recently in a plane crash. Capera Diaz' death will weaken the M-19, which has been conducting frequent raids in El Caqueta.

SIXTH CANDIDATE JOINS PRESIDENTIAL RACE

PA080215 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2029 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Quito, 7 Aug (EFE) -- The number of presidential candidates for the elections to be held in Ecuador in January 1984 rose to six today with the liberal-leaning Alfarist Radical Front's (FRA) nomination of Jaime Aspiazu.

Aspiazu, 50, accepted the nomination following the resignation of Hugo Ordenez, who was nominated previously and who had started his electoral campaign.

The new candidate said he will fight for a future without poverty and that he will not participate "in a campaign of insults, but in a campaign of programs reflecting an image different from that which has characterized Ecuadorean politics.

Aspiazu's nomination shows the open failure of the FRA's attempt to reach an alliance with the "Democratic Left" [ID] (moderate socialist) and sectors of the ideological center.

For its part, the ID reached an agreement last night with People, Change, and Democracy (PCD) and agreed to have its presidential candidate, Rodrigo Borja, who was proclaimed 3 weeks ago, accompanied by Aquiles Rigail as his vice presidential mate.

This alliance will seek to "cut off the way to the oligarchy," according to leaders of the two parties after several meetings held last Saturday.

Both leaders referred to the Leon Febres-Blasco Penaherrera ticket nominated by the National Reconstruction Front [Frente de Reconstruction Nacional], a group of five right-wing parties which they consider their major adversary.

For their part, candidates Francisco Huerta Montalvo of the Democratic Party; Julio Cesar Trujillo of the ruling Christian Democratic Party; and Jaime Hurtado Gonzalez of the Marxist Democratic Popular Movement (MPD) have continued their electoral campaigns.

According to the electoral law, the presidential, legislative, and municipal elections campaigns will formally begin on 29 October, and elections will take place on 29 January 1983.

In the event that no presidential hopeful secures 51-percent of the vote, a runoff election will be held between the two with the most votes on 6 May.

The transfer of government is scheduled for 10 August 1984.

ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND CHIEF APPOINTED

PA062140 Paris AFP in Spanish 1653 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] Quito, 6 Aug (AFP) -- Vice Admiral Mario Jaramillo del Castillo, commander of the Ecuadorean Navy, also became chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command today.

Jaramillo del Castillo, senior of the three service commanders, will replace Army General Jorge Arciniegas Salazar, who was appointed defense minister on Wednesday.

The other two commanders are Division General Garibaldo Mino, army, and Lieutenant General Hector Vasconez Lopez, air force.

GOVERNMENT RELEASES POLITICAL PRISONERS

PY041820 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 28

[Text] Some of the 20 persons recently arrested for alleged violations of Law 209 [state security] were released today. They are: Antonio Paez Galeano, Hans George Gossen, Maria Raquel Rojas de Carmona, Lidia Sonia Duque Pino, Fernando Esteban Rodriguez Zuccolillo, Javier Antonio Joy Salomoni, Jose Ruben Miro Monte, and Eulalia Leguizamon.

The other members of the group were sent to prison and their property was impounded to the amount of 500,000 guaranies each. The following persons were affected by these measures: Sonia Cristina Aquino, Benjamin Ramon Livieres, Victorio Abel Grance, Silvano Presentado, Desiderio Arzamendia, Jan Arrom, Agustin Chamorro, Roberto Esquivel, Ernest Goossen, Margarita Mussi, and Josefine Frasqueri.

POLICE BREAK UP PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION 7 AUG

PY081900 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Aug 83 p 8

[Excerpts] The mass celebrated at 1100 yesterday at the metropolitan cathedral for the freedom of political prisoners had a totally unexpected outcome. Uniformed and plainclothes policemen, some of them carrying light machineguns, broke up a peaceful demonstration in the cathedral's esplanade. The demonstrators were carrying placards and demanding the release of relatives who have been detained. The demonstration ended with the detention of a reporter and a photographer of this newspaper. After being taken to the Investigation Department, the police seized the pictures taken of the demonstration.

The mass was said by the parish priest, Msgr Agustin Blujaki, who, in his homily, referred to the need for a sound administration of justice, and said that both the government and the people must always conduct their actions according to divine and Christian laws.

The mass was offered by parents and relatives of several persons who have been detained and bound over for trial for alleged subversion, violation of Law 209 "on defense of public tranquillity and freedom of persons," Law 323 "on privileges of magistrates," and Law 294 "on defense of democracy." Among the demonstrators were relatives of persons facing trial for their involvement in what the courts call the "Caaguazu case," the "pro-Chinese case," and a score of young people who were arrested at the Paraguayan data bank and in other places of the city and accused of carrying out subversive activities.

Most of the faithful who were present at the cathedral yesterday wore in their coat lapels a slogan referring to the objectives of the mass: elimination of the state of siege, abolition of the antisubversive laws, and the release of persons who have been detained for political reasons.

At the end of the mass, Mrs Carmen de Lara Castro, on behalf of the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights, said a prayer for the release of political prisoners.

At the end of the mass, the persons in attendance gathered at the esplanade of the cathedral and began a peaceful demonstration, chanting slogans and displaying placards demanding the lifting of the state of siege, the abolishment of Laws 209, 294, and 323. They also demanded the release of detained relatives, including Escolastico Ovando, who is being held at the police Security Guard Department.

During the demonstration, some plainclothes policemen were deployed around the esplanade. The demonstration had been in progress approximately 20 minutes when a large group of uniformed and plainclothes policemen arrived, some armed with machineguns, and dispersed the people. The demonstrators did not resist and left the area quickly. Some of them got into their cars immediately. No violence or detentions were reported.

During the brief confusion caused by the police intervention, ABC reporter Juan Antonio Franco and photographer Raul Gonzalez, who were covering the event, were detained by uniformed police. When they were ready to return to work, they were forced to get out of their car.

They were asked for the keys to the car, for the camera and tape recorder, and were forced to stand with their hands up against a parked car. They were then taken to the central police station without explanation. From there they were taken to the Investigations Department, where, after a brief delay, they were questioned by Alberto Cantero, chief of the police political section, who wrote down personal data on the reporter and photographer, such as name and surname, profession, status, address, name of parents, identification numbers, etc.

After questioning, Commissioner Cantero gave them back the camera and the tape recorder, but without the film of the demonstration in front of the cathedral. They were released later without any explanation. Later they had to look for the car keys at the central police station.

After being asked about the event in front of the cathedral and about the detention of this newspaper's reporters yesterday, Commissioner General Osvaldo Palacios, head of the police Public Relations Department, stated that when he found out about the details he would call this newspaper with the information. However, he did not call.

PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES BOLIVIA ON NATIONAL DAY

PY082300 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Aug 83 p 7

["Text" of message sent by Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner to Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo on Bolivia's Independence Day, 6 August]

[Text] With friendly feelings, the Paraguayan people and Government wish to join the commemoration of Bolivian independence and convey their best wishes for the prosperity of the people of your friendly country. With our wishes for the welfare of the Bolivian nation and for your personal happiness, I reiterate my deepest appreciation for Your Excellency.

CHURCH LEADER REACTS TO CLOSURE OF RADIO STATION

PY090224 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Aug 83 p 11

[Excerpt] Monsignor Ismael Rolon, the archbishop of Asuncion, yesterday said that he could never have imagined that Radio Nanduti has infringed upon the moral principles of the people. "Unless," he remarked, "someone believes that the courageous reporting of mistakes, injustice, and social needs amounts to infringing upon the moral principles of the people." He recalled that thus far it has been impossible to examine the evidence of the alleged offenses committed by the station, and noted that official measures, particularly those of a disciplinary nature, must always be thoroughly explained to the people.

The archbishop referred in the first place to the charge that Radio Nanduti had infringed upon the moral principles of the people. This charge was recently leveled by Roque Fleytas, ANTELCO [National Administration of Telecommunications] Radio Communications Department director, during an interview.

The archbishop said: "I must say that I do not usually listen to Radio Nanduti. However, based on widespread comments and on my own experience, it would have never occurred to me that Radio Nanduti may have been infringing upon the moral principles of the people, unless someone believes that the courageous reporting of mistakes, injustice, and social needs amounts to infringing upon the moral principles of the people."

The archbishop was then asked whether he thought it was inappropriate for the people to express their complaints and concerns over the radio or through any other media. He replied: "For human coexistence, social communication is as important as interpersonal communication. The opinion of the public and the conscience of the people are built on the basis of social communication, no matter through which channel it takes place. In addition, if social communication is at the service of the people without discrimination, the people will have the chance to express their major concerns, which can thus be addressed by the proper agencies and solved accordingly. Obviously, mass media should not be manipulated by those ideologies that deny truth, traditions, and the religious faith of the people."

BRIEFS

NEW MAGAZINE -- A new issue of the magazine ESTRELLA has just come out. Its director is Alberto Montoya Correa. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 31 Jul 83 p 14 PY]

ITAIPU COST UPDATED -- The updated cost of the Itaipu hydroelectric plant is now close to $15 billion. This represents a 14.9-percent increase this year alone. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 27 Jul 83 p 11 PY]

INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- The new ambassador of Indonesia today presented his credentials to President Alfredo Stroessner. He is Mr Abdoerechman Djajaprawira. [Summary] [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 27 Jul 83 p 8 PY]

TAIWANESE CONGRESSIONAL VISIT -- A 17-member Taiwanese congressional delegation headed by Henry Heng Hsu is now visiting with Paraguayan congressmen. This delegation is on a good-will tour through Latin America. [Summary] [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 7 PY]

BELAUNDE TERRY ON TERRORISM, DRUG TRAFFICKING

PY082253 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] President Belaunde Terry made a strong, energetic appeal to foreign powers not to meddle in Peru's domestic affairs. Had it not been for foreign meddling, fraternity would still prevail among all Peruvians, Belaunde asserted. The presidential message was voiced during the marking of the 64th anniversary of the founding of the Republican Guard. The president stated straightforwardly that the encroachment of subversion and the shameful spread of drug trafficking were being encouraged from abroad. He further stated: I can attest to this fact through recent contacts with other heads of state and officials from other countries that are also subjected to these attacks. Belaunde Terry stressed that it is not so easy to suppress terrorism and drug trafficking. We are facing experienced criminals and for this reason the solution will not come about at once.

Belaunde emphasized, however, that it is the government's the Armed Forces', and the police's will to erradicate this evil from our soil. He also added that we must restore that fraternity and harmony to our country which characterize the Peruvian people.

Finally, the head of state commended the courageous behavior of Peru's Republican Guard, whose members are aware of the responsibility they bear in this fight and who have accepted it with the determination typical of those ready to die for their homeland. President Belaunde voiced his full solidarity with the relatives of those who have fallen from the murderous bullets of the terrorists, as well as sympathy for those hospitalized with very serious wounds from which they may not recover.

PRESIDENT INSTALLS NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

PY060329 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] New ministers were sworn in by the head of state today amid cheers and applause from a large audience. The new ministers were sworn in at the Golden Hall of Government House. These are the justice, agriculture, industry, tourism and integration ministers. The new head of the National Planning Institute was also sworn in.

The ceremony started by reading out the respective executive decrees, followed by each minister's oath: Yes, I do. Although the ceremony was brief, a warm, democratic atmosphere prevailed. Belaunde warmly embraced each minister, both incoming and outgoing.

The newly sworn-in ministers are: Ernesto Alayza Grundy, justice minister; Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller, agriculture minister; and Ivan Rivera Flores, industry, tourism and integration minister. Ignacio Basombrio Zender was sworn in as the head of the National Planning Institute.

ECONOMY MINISTER RODRIGUEZ ADDRESSES NATION

PY090410 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0134 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Speech by Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor on 8 August -- live]

[Text] [In progress] ...any other line of action would have led us to disaster. Had we run out of foreign reserves or unilaterally failed to service our foreign debt, we would have virtually lost all foreign support.

We would not have the means to pay for essential articles such as wheat, rice, sugar, and potatoes at a time when our production is feeling the effects of floods in the north and drought in the south. We would have suffered a lack of supplies more severe than the lack we have already experienced, and certainly the price increases for food supplies would have been higher.

On the other hand, had we lacked the foreign currency necessary to import the materials industry requires to produce, many factories and mines would have had to shut down and the construction of many ongoing projects would have been halted, with the resulting loss of employment and the worsening of social tensions. It would have been regrettable that, by running out of foreign reserves, the Central Bank would have lost its capacity to administer the rate of exchange. Then the devaluation of the sol vis-a-vis convertible currencies around the world would have been more pronounced, and other prices in the economy would have climbed to levels several times higher than those they reached.

That bleak picture has presented itself many times in the past in various countries of the world, and even now can be seen in some countries on our continent. When this comes to pass, a country loses its freedom of action and its stability is threatened. Thus it finds itself in the position of adopting a beggar's attitude in meeting with creditors and other economic assistance agencies. The government could not allow Peru to lapse into such a situation, and it did not. The results of the policy implemented made it possible to reschedule the payment of our foreign debt on favorable terms, and to obtain additional financial resources on the order of $1.2 billion. We have not only secured the support both of creditor governments and international financial organizations, but also that of all financing banks in the world, which had carefully examined our programs and economic measures we adopted in recent months to support those programs. First, stemming from negotiations with the IMF, which concluded a year ago, we made contacts with foreign private banks in June and with official creditors of the so-called Paris Club just 2 weeks ago, thus obtaining the backing [words indistinct].

Now only a final meeting with socialist countries is pending. We are also in contact with the IBRD to obtain $200 million.

We have not only maintained our [word indistinct], but also our independence as well as our freedom of action in the management of the nation's economy. With the new foreign credits and the elimination of tension resulting from the foreign debt, we have substantially improved our position in fiscal matters and in the balance of payments. The assistance we have received in foreign resources eliminates the need to resort to inflationary financing to meet the urgent needs of the zones which were declared in a state of emergency, and to offset the drop in treasury revenues resulting from the recession we are experiencing. With these resources, we will be able to update the cost of public projects, thus greatly improving the situation in the construction sector.

As for the balance of payments, after a sharp decline early this year, the balance now tilts in our favor by $1 billion.

The success we have had on the external front has given us the relief we needed to implement pragmatic measures to fight inflation and to promote economic recovery by making broader credits available and by adopting other measures in support of production -- especially the agricultural and industrial activities directed at exports.

Today's challenge is to be clever in using this new maneuvering room we have gained after the months of strenuous effort and sacrifices we have all shared. We have to realistically gauge the leeway we now have, avoiding a lapse into rigid postures divorced from reality. In other words, we have to maintain a professional approach to our economic affairs, seeking results which will benefit the national interests and the majority of the people.

Our first task is the inflation rate, which reached 8 percent in July, which indicates that we have entered the danger zone of three-digit inflation -- a rate which would make a wholesale economic recovery impossible. This is to say that the lever for lifting the economy will be a sound fiscal and monetary policy. We will honor our commitment to reduce the fiscal deficit this year through a program of austerity in current expenditures, aggressiveness in investments and in the implementation of projects, efficiency in the financial management of state companies, strict enforcement of tax laws, and the repression of smuggling and other forms of tax envasion. The 1984 budget is being designed with that objective in mind, that is, higher efficiency levels and the elimination of squandering in public spending.

Based on the available foreign financial assistance, we will try to eliminate the inflationary financing of public expenses. With a persevering effort to keep the budget and the issuance of paper money under control, with a favorable balance of payments, and with high reserve levels, the government can afford to begin a process leading to an inflation rate decline. This decline will be accomplihsed through a considerably lower devaluation rate and a similar declaration of the rate of growth of prices of the few but essential goods and services under control and regulation. Beginning now, we will try to break the vicious circle of inflation through a deceleration of the foreign exchange rate and the adjustment of prices of goods and services subject to regulation.

There should be no doubt on this matter. False expectations should not be allowed to grow either. Therefore, the exchange rate -- and consequently the price of fuel and other items under control -- will be announced 3 months in advance.

The Central Bank will publish the exchange rates that will be in force from September to November. Monthly readjustments will not surpass 4 percent, that is, 50 percent of the readjustment rate over the last 6 months.

However, only the loyal and patriotic cooperation of all Peruvians will permit us to curb the inflation rate. Dealers and manufacturers must set moderate prices, pay their taxes honestly, and on time, make every effort to conquer markets abroad, adopt socially responsible labor policies, and have the confidence to invest in the building of our country's future.

Public servants must work efficiently, rationally, honestly, and with dedication for the Peruvian people. Workers and employees of other sectors must also moderate their salary demands. Strikes called with political objectives must be brought to an end and productivity must increase.

For its part, the government will serve the national interests by making every effort to improve the standard of living of as many people as possiblle. The government will also be responsive to social needs.

Concerning this essential issue, I want to announce that taking into account the last price cuts, the government has decided to advance the date of imlementation of the next readjustment of public servants' salaries. This readjustment will not be implemented on 1 October as was initially scheduled, but on 1 September. I also want to announce that instead of the originally scheduled single salary readjustment for 1983, an additional readjustment will be made on 1 November.

Workers who do not have contracts under collective bargaining conditions will also be favored by a salary readjustment.

The government is also very concerned over the needs of the poorer sectors. Despite budget austerity, we are determined to continue and expand those programs designed to meet the basic needs of our people and to improve their welfare. Therefore, the Council of Ministers will make a careful evaluation of the social impact and results of government programs when drafting the 1984 budget. This will be done in order to reallocate resources to those programs that yield better results for the poorer sectors.

With your cooperation, dear listeners, the series of events that have led us to higher inflation rates can be reversed. However, this calls for a joint effort, a joint effort that will lead us to a reduction of the inflation rate. As the inflation rate declines, real purchasing power will increase. Thus, the demand for our products will rise. New jobs will be created and the purchasing power will rise even further.

A low inflation rate will also improve public finances. The government's demand for credit will decline. Therefore, more credits will be available for the private sector.

In the second half of the year, we will provide a 300-billion-sol increase in the line of credits that the Central Bank grants to the private sector. When multiplied through the banking system, the total availability of credits will reach approximately 1.2 trillion soles.

In addition, the early announcement of exchange rates will guarantee the stability that manufacturers and international trade agents need for early planning and efficient management.

The readjustment of interest rates will help correct the unfair low rates that are paid to local holders of savings accounts. It will also increase available capital for investment on the basis of attractive interest rates.

Increasing our savings in national currency will decrease our economy's dependence on the dollar because we will be resorting to our own capital rather than depending too much on [word indistinct] with other countries. And this will be very important for our economic independence.

However, I hereby assure you that our efforts to further promote savings in national currency by no means imply that the people will be precluded from saving in dollars or in any other foreign currency. Savings in any currency are praiseworthy, and the government prefers this rather than for the people to stop saving or to withdraw funds from the country. For this reason, I hereby pledge that the system of foreign currency savings will not be changed.

Together with the reactivation of the economy that I mentioned earlier, the government plans to adopt special tax and credit measures to ensure that the agricultural and traditional and nontraditional exporting sectors can adequately begin the reactivation process, something which is of vital importance.

In an economy like ours, exports that are not restricted by the scope of the market produce foreign currency savings that can be reinvested, which is indispensable for development.

The fast recovery of the world economy [words indistinct] will be a solid foundation for planning and carrying out a major expansion of exports. Agriculture can also permit us to earn and to save large amounts of foreign currency. Our large territory and the variety of climates and soils that we have give us a rich agriculture potential that has been exploited very little so far.

Since 50 percent of our population works in rural areas, it is necessary to improve the standard of living of the rural population in order to expand the internal market. The [name indistinct] and the Agriculture Ministry plan to draw up and implement a new and far-reaching agricultural policy with social repercussions, because the well-being and the security of the large majority of the people are the main objectives of the government's economic program.

Instead of adopting striking, easy, or spectacular measures which apparently grant everything to everyone as if by means of a miracle, we have preferred to follow the difficult path. This path, which is not always understood by the people but which is real, consists of laying the bases for a real recovery based on more production and, consequently, more jobs. At the same time, the cost of living will gradually be stabilized and the government will be able to concentrate its efforts on implementing health, housing, education, and overall development plans.

Dear listeners, we are slowly but carefully laying the foundations for a healthy and dynamic growth of our economy. Therefore, nothing will stop the government from attaining this objective, because we know it is our duty to continuously serve the lasting national interests, and also because we do not seek easy, short-lived earnings.

I expressed this emphatically during my 25 May speech to the nation, saying that neither the natural disasters, the foreign difficulties, nor the elections would stop us from implementing the economic recovery project that is underway.

The program made thus far seems hard and slow because we are fighting against strongly adverse situations prompted by the world crisis and the natural disasters that have devastated the country. By implementing a coherent national policy based on healthy principles such as [words indistinct], fiscal thrift, individual initiatives, and discipline by the forces of the economy -- principles which strengthen the democratic institutions -- we will overcome the crisis and the recovery will be a happy reality.

In sum, now that the foreign debt has been successfully renegotiated, we are ready to reactivate the economy and to fight inflation forcefully. We will continue to fight the causes of the inflation in that the government will not spend more than it earns. We will not implement a price and a wage control policy, not only because the policy would not work or would only do so for a very short time, but also because such a policy would hurt the economy by prompting shortages, corruption, and squandering. We will immediately reduce the rate of devaluation and restrict the increase in the price of gasoline and other basic products to less than 4 percent monthly. There will be two (?other) wage increases for public employees this year, which will be granted on 1 September and on 1 November, respectively.

Despite its austere policy, the government will continue to show its total awareness of the needs of the poor sectors. The expansion of our economy, which will begin soon, partly due to the recovery of the world economy, will be mainly focused on agriculture and on traditional and nontraditional exports. Through the hard work, cooperation, and support of all the Peruvian people, we have a future of prosperity in store for us, something that is characteristic of a vigorous democracy and, in my belief, a source of national pride. Thank you and good evening.

USSR'S FOKIN DISCUSSES CENTRAL AMERICA

PA060445 Paris AFP in Spanish 0052 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] Caracas, 5 Aug (AFP) -- Yuriy Fokin, secretary general of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said in Caracas today that the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace in Central America have "the support, understanding and, in some ways, the great enthusiasm of the Soviet Union."

He also emphasized that Washington's position, whereby it presents the Central American problem within terms of the East-West confrontation, seeks "very specific objectives," the primary one being "essentially to try to conceal the region's problems."

He declared that the United States wants to "confuse the people about the causes of the current situation in this part of the world, to confuse and blind them so that they will not see the aggressive U.S. policy in Central America."

He denied that the Soviet Union has expansionist plans in the region, as Washington constantly charges, saying that "some time ago, when the colonialist empires began to crumble, it was also claimed that we had expansionist plans."

"Now, with the normal development of Soviet relations with the Latin American countries, it is claimed that this is proof of Soviet expansionism."

"This is understandable, if Latin America is viewed as the U.S. backyard, or if it were to be declared a U.S. special interest zone," he stressed. "But if the Latin American countries are viewed as a fraternity of independent states, then one must praise the development of relations between the USSR and these nations," he added.

Yuriy Fokin has been visiting Caracas since Wednesday on a Latin American tour that has taken him to Cuba and Nicaragua. A Venezuelan source has indicated that, in addition to increasing bilateral ties with Venezuela, Fokin wants to discuss aspects of the agenda for the next period of the UN General Assembly session.

Fokin held meetings with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano, whom he had met earlier during Zambrano's recent visit to Moscow, and with high-ranking officials at the Foreign Ministry and the Venezuela Foreign Trade Institute.

The high-ranking Soviet Foreign Ministry official explained that his contacts with the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry represent efforts to bring the two countries' positions closer. "In this way we will be better able to understand what the Venezuelans think of the world situation, to establish an agreement on views and to look at the causes of differences that exist in our respective positions, so that we may expand mutual understanding and cooperation," he said.

He added that the USSR holds these kinds of talks with dozens of countries throughout the world and that "there is nothing unusual in this kind of political consultation," "which is very common in our country's diplomatic experience."

He also described Venezuelan-Soviet relations as stable. "But not everything has been done or achieved. There are still many tasks to be done in bringing our countries closer," he added.

Fokin invited the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry to send officials to Moscow next year to renew these contacts with Venezuela.

Fokin will return to Moscow on Sunday, via Mexico.

SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT ANNOUNCED

FL061255 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0405 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid will address the nation on 14 August when he welcomes U.S. President Ronald Reagan in La Paz, Baja California, the Secretariat of Foreign Relations announced today. On the same day, Reagan will deliver a speech followed by private talks with the Mexican president. A joint communique will be released following the talks. Meanwhile, Secretary of Foreign Relations Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and his U.S. counterpart George Shultz will hold a joint press conference. According to the Foreign Secretariat's schedule of activities, subject to last-minute changes, President Miguel de la Madrid will host a banquet for the U.S. President the same day.

Havana Notes C.A. Position

PA072345 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Victor Flores Orea, the Mexican undersecretary of foreign relations, has said in Mexico City that the United States is well aware of the Mexican Government's firm and determined stand on avoiding a war in Central America. He added that it is expected that in the course of the talks to be held on 14 August, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will define to U.S. President Ronald Reagan his position regarding the efforts of Contadora Group which, Flores said, has asked for Washington's cooperation.

DE LA MADRID ADDRESSES TIJUANA RESIDENTS

FL051040 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0500 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Tijuana, B.C.N. 4 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- We are going to overcome the crisis by turning away from the notion that the Mexican revolution has failed and by abandoning ideas that entail taking a step backward, President Miguel de la Madrid said today in a broadcast to residents of this community over the local television station.

The president said he had issued instructions to arrange for a six-year extension of the free trade zone rule in order to provide for procedures more advantageous to the country's economic trends and prospects.

He said the crisis has not been overcome, although we have controlled its more critical, difficult, and distressing aspects. But, he added, we will overcome the crisis threatening our democracy and liberty and will not be disheartened by the problems. We want a society capable of progressing in an equitable way. Therefore, he said, we are going to continue to observe and perfect the plural democracy and mixed economy. The only way we are going to overcome this crisis is with the efforts of the farmers, workers, popular classes, and businessmen.

The president noted that the decree which created the Intersecretarial Commission for Development of Border Industrial Districts and Free Trade Zones established a program of integral development for the northern border areas.

He added that instructions had been issued to provide drinking water and sewage services for the cities of Tijuana, Ensenada, and Tecate and to speed up the work on the regulation of lands in the state. He also promised to continue the work of channeling the river and draining stagnant waters [aguas negras]. He stressed that steps had been taken for the acquisition of agricultural allowances in controlled-type dollars and that the sum of 300 million pesos had been assigned for leveling and conserving land.

MEXICO-USSR FOREIGN POLICY CONCURRENCES

PA050411 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 5

[From the "Parties and Chambers" column: "Mexico-USSR Concurrence"]

[Text] The concurrence between Mexican and Soviet foreign policies on detente and the peaceful solution of conflicts was stressed in Moscow yesterday by Luis Danton Rodriguez, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, who is leading a Mexican delegation that is visiting that country, after a meeting with Aleksey Shitikov and Vitaliy Ruben, the chairmen of the USSR Parliamentary Group.

At the conclusion of the meeting and of the activities by the visiting legislators, Danton Rodriguez also voiced his concern over the presence of U.S. warships and troops in Central American and Caribbean waters at the very time that the Contadora Group's peace efforts are most active. He announced that the Mexican and Soviet legislators agreed to bring the Central American issue up at the upcoming world IPU meeting.

On this subject, Horacio Flores de la Pena, Mexican ambassador to the USSR, recalled the recent support Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko expressed for the Contadora Group's peace initiative.

VISITING COSTA RICAN ENVOY SCORES U.S. POLICY

FL081435 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0324 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Ekhardt Peters, deputy foreign minister of Costa Rica, today demanded the withdrawal of the United States and Cuba from Central America in order to achieve the pacification of the area.

The Costa Rican diplomat added that as long as the slightest indication of foreign intervention in the Central American conflict exists, it will not be possible to establish a real democracy in the countries of this part of the American Continent.

Ekhardt Peters was interviewed upon his arrival at Mexico City's International Airport. He said that he will hold talks with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor on Central America's problems.

He said that his country unconditionally supports the Contadora Group, because all the peace proposals made on the Latin American problems are acceptable.

He said that the member countries have confirmed their moral integrity and have democratic systems capable of contributing good ideas to the Contadora Group and of finding a prompt solution to the Central American conflict.

Peters added that consequently Costa Rica is not worried by the Central American movements against Costa Rica's democracy, which is much better than Leninism-Marxism.

He said that the San Jose pact is proof that the governments of Venezuela and Mexico want to help improve the situation in the Central American and Caribbean countries. He pointed out that the pact goes beyond the simple supply of oil because it demonstrates the interest of the Latin American countries in cooperating among each other.

Ekhardt Peters arrived in Mexico City accompanied by Hernan Azofeifa, deputy communications and transportation minister, who will meet with Felix Valdes, the Mexican communications and transportation secretary, to discuss an agreement to increase commercial airline flights between the two countries.

DE LA ESPRIELLA TO RETURN ELECTORAL CODE BILL

PA082330 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1715 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] President Ricardo de la Espriella today announced that in the next few hours he will return the draft electoral code, with objections, to the National Legislative Council in order to guarantee honest elections in 1984. President de la Espriella was approached on this subject by TVN Channel 2 at the dedication of the John Paul II Highway.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, what can you tell us about the draft electoral code, which the legislative branch is claiming was sent to your office almost 30 days ago?

[De la Espriella] The study that I ordered from the legal advisers who help me at the presidency is about finished. My intention is to send the draft back to the assembly. One of our goals at the time we took this high office was to give the people the chance to exercise the right to vote and choose a president through direct voting in 1984 in clean, broad, pure, and honest elections. In my view, and despite the efforts carried out by the honorable legislators who have worked arduously and with very little time for this, the code still shows certain incongruities and it might be seen as not offering all the guarantees necessary to avoid all doubts about the honesty and purity of the elections. As this has been my commitment to the people, I will object to the code, and I will send it back to the assembly along with my request to the honorable legislators to pay attention to our objections and to introduce the necessary amendments so the code can be a guarantee for the people, the political parties, and all participants in the 1984 election. For this reason, either this afternoon or tomorrow, if I finish with it, I will send the draft code back to the assembly.

[Reporter] Mr President, what objections could we be informed of at this point?

[De la Espriella] This will be publicized in due time. Thank you very much.

PALA NOMINATES PAREDES AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA080430 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Labor Party President Carlos Eleta Almaran announced late this afternoon Brigadier General Ruben Dario Paredes' nomination as the party's presidential candidate for the 1984 elections. In a vibrant speech delivered to more than 700 delegates at the party's convention, Eleta invited all democratic political parties to join a political alliance that would lead to what he called a grand national unity of all the country's active sectors. Making the announcement of behalf of the Labor Party, Eleta said:

[Begin Eleta recording] Fellow citizens, I am fully convinced that the time has come when all Panamanians should stop in their daily chores and honestly, serenely, and with great patriotism give serious thought to the country's political future. The Labor Party, PALA, is absolutely sure that the next elections will guarantee Panama's democracy. Therefore, I cannot end my message without asking firm support from all the democratic parties to form a grand political alliance as soon as possible in order to attain a national unity that will permit the joint solution of the grave problems that are preventing the better development and social welfare of all Panamanians. [applause]

Finally, as president of the Labor Party, PALA, duly authorized by thousands of party members throughout the country represented at the supreme convention and aware of the fact that the country urgently needs a proven man to lead it, I announce the presidential nomination of citizen Ruben Dario Paredes [applause] for the 1984-1989 period in the elections to be held the second week of May 1984. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

The PALA convention was held today to comply with the electoral law so that it is officially recognized as a national political party.

The party's National Executive Council was elected during the convention: Carlos Eleta Almaran, president; Jeronimo Escala, first vice president; Efrain Zanetti, second vice president; Azael Vargas, secretary general; Campo Elias Munoz, deputy secretary general; and to the national secretariats: Ricardo Franco, administrative affairs; Arturo Diez, organization; Jose Alessandria, finances; Juan Medrano, political affairs; Maximo Luque, electoral affairs; Rafael Barranco, education; Julio Arosemena, culture; Nestor Tomas Guerra, sports and recreation; Luis de Leon Arias, labor affairs; Roger Decerega, training and formation; Gustavo Nelson Collado, health; Roberto Lopez Fabrega, international affairs; Jorge Fernandez, youth; Antonio Saturno, social welfare; Alberto Velasquez, press and propaganda; Wilso Eskildsen, economic affairs; Jorge Federico Lee, legal affairs; Carlos Sinistierra, community affairs; Norma de Troestch, women's movement; and Alfredo Saldana, peasant and indigenous affairs.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HOLD PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

PA071757 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] The third congress of the Panama Province Christian Democratic Party [PDC] today elected Jose de los Santos Chen the new provincial secretary general. The new provincial board of directors will have the task of consolidating the PDC in Panama Province with an eye to the 1984 general elections.

The congress was attended by the PDC national leadership, headed by President Ricardo Arias Calderon, and guests of other political organizations. The PDC congress, presided over by (Carmen Aven), was attended by some 500 members of the green star party.

PDC President Arias Calderon reiterated the Christian Democracy's willingness to reach agreement as soon as possible on an opposition front that would present a single presidential slate for the 1984 elections.

PAPO LEADER WARNS AGAINST MILITARY CANDIDACY

PA051715 Panama City YA in Spanish 5 Aug 83 pp 1, 19

[Text] People's Action Party (PAPO) leader Dr Carlos Ivan Zuniga has stated that if changes do not put real power on the side of democratization, without a military candidacy, "much blood will be shed here," as Morales Bermudez said in Peru.

Zuniga's statement was made during the "Now It Is Up to the People" program hosted by Ramon Fernandez Domenech on Wednesday, 3 August, over Radio Mundial. In his remarks, Zuniga declared that if democratization is not given real power, as President Morales Bermudez did in Peru, and if elections are held in 1984 "with the same government system, we are headed for the slaughterhouse."

According to the PAPO leader, "the National Guard is showing signs of imposing a military candidate." Zuniga added that the people's prevailing indifference is due to defeatism, because the people know that in Panama there are no guarantees whatsoever and that the National Guard's power prevails.

OFFICIAL PRD COMMUNIQUE REJECTS CHARGES

PA051901 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 5 Aug 83 pp 1-a, 6-a

[Communique issued by Democratic Revolutionary Party; no date given -- capitalization as published]

[Text] WE ARE DEFENDING THE FATHERLAND OF ALL PANAMANIANS! A few days ago the Panamanian people marked the second anniversary of the loss of the founder of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] with a huge march of revolutionary and patriotic resolve during which they showed their immense combative fervor.

In regrettable contrast, and with limited participation of new adherents, a small group of hotheaded members of the opposition tried to unleash a campaign of verbal abuse and confusion against the national government. Resorting to humbug and falsehoods -- and with the barefaced complicity of the daily newspaper LA PRENSA and former Attorney General Rodriguez -- they tried to create an atmosphere of tension and discredit aimed at triggering de facto actions and interrupting the process of democratic institutionalization currently underway in our country.

Those involved in this dangerous and irresponsible adventure against the people's interests are the same ones who have fomented and sponsored fascist repression and paramilitary violence in Central America. Because they feel lost in the climate of democratic stability that has been established in Panama, they resort to desperate actions to interrupt the electoral process that our people will complete in 1984.

The people know that President de la Espriella and General Paredes are the ones who have most strongly demanded and promoted investigations and steps to clean up the national public administration. They also know that President de la Espriella and General Paredes are the ones who have made the greatest effort to guarantee the democratic process initiated by Omar Torrijos. This has earned them the vast moral and civic authority that the people recognize in them.

This is what these desperate psychopaths tried to harm and sully with their destabilizing infamy on this anniversary of Omar's death.

Let no one try to disguise the unpopularity and the record of failures of these discredited groups. Let no one try to disguise the repeated attempts at blackmail of the former attorney general, who wanted to abandon the investigations entrusted to him and demanded a post as [Supreme Court] magistrate. Let no one try to conceal the fact that he misused a large sum of money he had confiscated during the investigations. Let no one try to ignore the indescribable charges with which he manipulated the investigations for his own politicking ends. Let no one try to forget that this erratic behavior seriously harmed the dignity of his office.

Let them not try to deny that now, together with one of the main culprits of the crimes under investigation, they are involved in a conspiracy to disrupt the democratization process in order to avoid facing the people's judgment at the polls during a popular, respected, and honest election. We challenge them to show their political strength through this democratic process.

We congratulate President de la Espriella and General Paredes for their integrity and calm and reiterate our staunch admiration and support for them. We also endorse their determination to continue the investigations with vigor and objectivity in accordance with the laws. However, we also demand that those who have spun lies and falsehoods, besmirched our leaders and institutions, slandered honest officials, and tried to manipulate judicial proceedings and public opinion be taken to court.

We live, and wish to continue to live, under a democratic and de jure regime. We wish to move on with Torrijos' nationalist, pluralist, and revolutionary program under this regime and with the utmost popular support. In order to do so, Omar's people will remain mobilized and on the alert, and will dismantle any destabilizing plot. This is because we are attending to the homeland of all Panamanians.

ALARM AT BEEF SALES LOSS TO U.S. 'JUSTIFIABLE'

PA070140 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Aug 83 p 12

[Editorial: "Alarming Announcement"]

[Text] According to reports from the United States, our country will not be allowed to export meat to that country as of December. The reports indicate "that the measure has been taken because the Panamanian product does not meet the health standards that U.S. authorities require."

This information has caused justifiable alarm to our cattlemen, who have declared themselves on the alert. If the measure takes effect, the national economy will suffer the loss of many millions of dollars in foreign exchange which we urgently need, and the measure will also seriously affect the cattle industry, which has already suffered considerably because of high costs.

Cattle breeders would have to search for new markets, which would be very difficult at this time because of the economic crisis affecting countries that buy meat and its byproducts and which, consequently, are buying less.

For some Panamanian observers, the measure announced by the U.S. Government could be part of the pressure being applied to force Panama to accept negotiations to extend certain privileges to U.S. employees of the Panama Canal Commission beyond the treaty stipulations. The negotiations would allow the School of the Americas to continue functioning after 1 October 1984, the construction of bases for C-130 airplanes in Bocas del Toro, and the suspension of the decolonization program set up by the Torrijos-Carter treaty, and would also compel the Panamanian Government to suspend efforts to eliminate the double wage scale that is now in effect in the Panama Canal area.

The announcement is alarming, and the leaders of the National Association of Cattlemen have stated that, as we pointed out earlier, they have declared themselves on the alert in defense of the Panamanian cattle industry!

EL SALVADOR

ARMY BEGINS NEW OPERATION IN SAN VICENTE

PA090315 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 8 Aug 83 pp 10, 37

[Excerpts] Since Friday, some 2,000 Army soldiers have been pursuing guerrillas who were trying to reenter areas in San Vicente Department that are under the control of government troops.

The operation began near Tecoluca and was in full swing yesterday.

According to reports, the troops are opening a path toward the north and toward Chichontepec Volcano, located 35 km to the east of San Salvador.

Other troops have been deployed near San Lorenzo and the northern area of the volcano. They have been fighting the extremists since Saturday and have been trying to block guerrilla movements toward the Pan-American Highway, which crosses San Vicente Department The Army began what it called a pacification program in the important farming area of San Vicente on 10 June. That operation, which involved some 6,000 soldiers, virtually cleared the area of rebels.

According to a UPI cable, Colonel Rinaldo Golcher, who is responsible for implementing the San Vicente plan, said last week that guerrilla groups were returning to San Vicente Department.

Army officers said that some 2,000 soldiers took part in the San Vicente operation, including the Cazadores and Ramon Belloso Battalions, which were trained by U.S. military advisers.

Official sources reported that confrontations took place yesterday between the Army and guerrillas near Cacaguatique Hill, located between Morazan and San Miguel Departments, where three soldiers were killed and eight injured in a recent clash.

VIOLENCE LINKED TO REBELS' DESIRE FOR TALKS

PA090320 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 8 Aug 83 pp 2, 25

[Text] Confrontations provoked by extremist groups have been reported in various parts of the country. According to military sources, their purpose is to apply political pressure.

These sources further state that FMLN extremists resort to violence as a means of pressing for dialogue, but government circles maintain that any dialogue would concern only the issue of the extreme left's participation in the electoral process, and not the question of their sharing power. President Alvaro Magana has expressed this view on several occasions.

Confrontations took place last Friday near San Agustin, Usulutan Department, and resulted in an undetermined number of deaths on both sides.

Skirmishes between the Army and the extremists also occurred near San Lorenzo, where at least six extremists were killed. Other terrorists were killed in clashes in Santa Clara and at the Chichontepec Volcano.

VENCEREMOS ON MILITARY MANEUVERS, TALKS

PA090424 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Thousands of Yankee soldiers are landing in Honduran territory, as they have done so many times in Latin America. Two powerful Yankee fleets are dirtying our Central American waters, while in the United States Reagan is declaring that this display of force has forced the Salvadoran revolutionary forces to change their position.

The imperialist policy of sending peace messengers like Richard Stone while their cannons are aimed at our countries and while their Marines land on our soil is an old policy that has repeated itself over the past 50 years. It explains why the United States has, for all those years, maintained lackey dictatorships in our countries and allowed misery and oppression to exist here.

But the imperialists better not build up their hopes. Don't build up your hopes in regard to our decision to achieve the people's goals. Regan better forget it. The fangs of his military maneuvers don't scare us. We will not lay down a single rifle until we in El Salvador have achieved a new social order of justice and freedom for Salvadorans. We will not stop fighting until we have achieved our sovereignty and independence, until we have built one army to protect those gains and sovereignty: One army to guarantee a government of ample participation. The homeland is at stake, and we will not take a single step backward.

VENCEREMOS APPEALS FOR MILITIA RECRUITS

PA080500 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] In response to the economic measures imposed by Magana and his assembly, which work against the people's interests, in response to the new electoral masquerade, in response to the imperialist intention to keep our fatherland in submission, the slogan is: Expand the popular organization and take up arms against the dictatorship.

Field workers, students, laborers, professionals, men and women: Join the militia and the revolutionary army. In your own canton, village, district or colony, you should join the militia squads. There is a rifle for each person. The militias are themselves up in arms, supporting the revolutionary army, harassing and sabotaging the dictatorship's war economy, in the armed struggle, [words indistinct] various actions to deceive the dictatorship's army.

The militia and the revolutionary army guarantee victory.

GUATEMALA

FURTHER REPORTS ON COUP, INSTALLMENT OF MEJIA

Rios Montt Will Not Concede

PA081855 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemalan President General Efrain Rios Montt will not turn the presidency over to the coupist militarymen led by Brigadier General Oscar Humberto Mejia.

The press secretary at the Presidential House in Guatemala City told this station by phone that Rios Montt and his loyal forces will resist to the end and will not concede power. He added that Gen Rios Montt has neither been captured nor taken prisoner, and that in a few moments his government will announce its official position on the nine-point proclamation issued by the nearly 30 Guatemalan coupist militarymen.

Rios Montt's Whereabouts Unclear

PA081906 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1836 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 8 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Armed Forces High Command rebelled against President Efrain Rios Montt today and appointed General Oscar Mejia Victores to replace him.

Early this morning, the coupists seized the telecommunications centers and the country's radio stations, over which they announced that they were overthrowing Rios Montt to maintain the unity of Guatemala and of the armed forces.

Most of Rios Montt's ministers were in the Government Palace at noon and plans were being made for Mejia Victores' assumption of office.

According to sources close to the presidency, Rios Montt left the palace shortly after 1500 GMT, immediately after the shooting began.

When Mejia Victores, leader of the rebel troops, entered the Presidential Palace at around 1645 GMT, only some officials were found inside.

Coupist officers and officers loyal to Rios Montt held a conversation in front of the Government Palace shortly before noon, but the topics they discussed have not been reported.

The troops who defended the palace and are loyal to General Rios Montt had their sleeves rolled up, just as occurred during the March 1982 coup that brought Rios Montt to power. The coupist troops had their shirt sleeves rolled down and buttoned.

There are troop concentrations and firing in other parts of the capital besides the Government Palace, so the situation remains confused.

There are conflicting rumors about the whereabouts of Rios Montt, who was not in the palace when the rebellion against him began. According to unconfirmed rumors, Rios Montt has been arrested near the airport.

Further on Rios Montt

PA081948 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1940 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- General Efrain Rios Montt, president of Guatemala until today, entered the offices of the Defense Ministry in the Government Palace dressed in civilian clothes at noon and left a few minutes afterward without making any statement to the press.

Rios Montt arrived in the company of several militarymen, including former Interior Minister Colonel Ricardo Mendez Ruiz. No one either forced him or pointed a gun at him.

It is not known what Rios Montt did once inside the palace, or where he went afterward.

It has been unofficially reported that he met with both the coupist officers and those who are still loyal to him, who decreed a truce after several hours of shooting, in which nine people were killed.

According to other Government Palace sources, Rios Montt was pressured into tendering his resignation.

Army Surrounds Palace Area

PA090016 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Aug (DPA) -- General Efrain Rios Montt, whom the Army replaced this morning with General Oscar Mejia Victores as Guatemalan head of state, refuses to leave the presidential palace in downtown Guatemala City and the Army has surrounded an area of approximately 1,000 meters around the Government Palace and the Presidential House.

Apparently, Rios Montt has the support of the presidential guard, a group of approximately 500 men of the military elite who are well armed.

Sporadic shooting was heard until 1800 GMT, but no formal fighting has been reported yet. However, the Army has placed armored vehicles and machineguns in firing position directed at Rios Montt's refuge.

Mortars and bazookas have also been installed around the Government Palace. These weapons could be used in the event of an emergency which might result in much bloodshed. Efforts are being made to avert bloodshed through intense negotiations which are underway between the officers who support Mejia Victores and those who still support Rios Montt.

Mejia's Inauguration Prepared

PA081910 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1855 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Now that the shooting between the coupist militarymen and those loyal to Rios Montt's regime has ceased outside the Government Palace, the installation of new Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores is being organized inside and is expected to take place within the next few hours.

According to journalists, several of Rios Montt's ministers were inside the Government Palace at noon today, while presidential officials were readying the ceremony in which Mejia Victores would assume office as the new Guatemalan head of state.

After more than 2 hours of shooting, resulting in the death of more than five soldiers outside the Government Palace, the commanders of the loyalist and opposition forces held talks, and after the arrival of Army Chief of Staff General Hector Lopez Fuentes, all action ceased.

1-Hour Truce Declared

PA081940 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1929 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- General Hector Lopez Fuentes, chief of the Army staff and one of the officers who is leading the military rebellion, has told ACAN-EFE that a 1-hour truce has been established to permit negotiations between troops who are loyal to Rios Montt and rebel troops.

The troops who are loyal to General Rios Montt have begun to withdraw to the presidential garrison located a few meters from the Presidential Palace.

One of the senior officers of that garrison went to the streets near the Government Palace to tell his subordinates to return to their garrison.

The withdrawal occurred shortly after the coupist troops deployed several armored vehicles near the area of the "Green Palace," seat of the Guatemalan Government.

The coupists are now wearing the shirts of their uniforms inside out to identify themselves. The troops that are loyal to Rios Montt have rolled up their sleeves.

Decree Names Head of State

PA082116 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2008 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Decree-Law No 87-83; read by unidentified individual]

[Text] The head of state;

Whereas: The Army High Command and the Military Commanders Council of Guatemala's air, land, and sea forces today issued a proclamation relieving Brigadier General Jose Efrain Rios Montt of the post of president of the republic and appointing Brigadier General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores in his place as head of state;

Whereas: By virtue of the above, which makes it necessary to modify the fundamental government statute, Decree-Law No 24-82 as modified by Decree-Law No 36-82;

Therefore, based on the proclamation issued by the Army High Command and the Military Commanders Council of the Guatemalan air, land, and sea forces today, and (?as stated) in Article 118 of the fundamental government statute, Decree-Law No 24-82 as modified by Decree-Law No 36-82; the Council of Ministers decrees the following modifications to the fundamental government statute:

Article 1: Effective today, Brigadier General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores will carry out the state's executive and legislative duties as chief of state and army general commander, with the powers, responsibilities, and privileges which Decree-Law No 24-82, modified by Decree-Law No 36-82, granted to the president of the Republic, thus relieving Brigadier General Jose Efrain Rios Montt of the post of president of the republic.

Article 2: General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores will also hold the post of defense minister.

Article 3: Effective today, the expression president of the republic contained in the fundamental government statute, as just modified by Decree-Law No 36-82, will be replaced by the term head of state in the [word indistinct] part of that statute, which is thus modified by this decree-law.

Article 4: This decree takes effect immediately and must be published in the official newspaper and in the Army general order document for officers.

Issued at the National Palace in Guatemala City, 8 August 1983.

To be published and enforced.

[Signed] Brigadier General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores

Colonel [name indistinct] Sanchez, secretary of the head of state

The acting government minister, the agriculture, livestock and foodstuffs minister, the communications and public works minister, the education minister, the economy minister, the finance minister, the foreign minister, the public health and social assistance minister, and the labor and social planning minister

Mejia Gives Inaugural Speech

PA082151 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2011 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Speech by Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores following the swearing in at the Presidential Palace, Guatemala City, 8 August 1983 -- live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: Based on the Guatemalan Army's decision, in accordance with established institutions, with unshakeable faith in the destiny of the homeland, without personal ambitions of any kind, as a professional soldier, forged in the service of my country, I have accepted, with humility, serenity, and determination, the responsibility given me to direct the destiny of the nation. I am aware of the difficult tasks ahead, but with faith in God and sure of the cooperation and help of my comrades in arms, and with the help of the various social, economic, and political sectors, we will return to the path of peace, national harmony, and democracy, neither victors nor vanquished! Guatemalans, all united [words indistinct] and willing to sacrifice, willing to work, with a high sense of duty, united, with the will to decide the present.

The political reorganization begun by the Army on 23 March 1982 will be consolidated to guarantee the Guatemalan people and the international community the firmness and decision to strengthen the basis for a peaceful coexistence and the return to an institutional process that will lead to the full exercise of a social economic and political democracy within the context of our Christian and Western culture. We are a democratic and pluralist nation, and we believe in the free self-determination of peoples.

The determined confrontation with subversion and the direct contact with the anguish and frustration of the Indian sectors, peasants, and residents of the areas in conflict have made us realize the great difference that exists between political rhetoric and the needs of the great majority of Guatemalans. Therefore, we reaffirm today that the Guatemalan Army and the Guatemalan state cannot be, and should not become, the defender, guardian, or protector of private or group interests, be they religious, social, economic, or political.

In the search for total democracy, our sacrifice and the blood shed by so many Guatemalans has a fundamental meaning. The officers and soliders who have given their lives for the fatherland have given an example to the nation and shown that the Guatemalan Army seeks the welfare of all -- that is, the welfare of man and society. The Army understands that it has assumed the responsibility for the return to institutional life, and to fulfill this task it will strictly observe the following points:

1. It reaffirms its firm determination to fight the Marxist-Leninist subversion and the paramilitary groups that may exist, and in this manner, protect the people of Guatemala. However, beyond this protection, we seek to understand, share, and struggle with the people -- not only to protect their lives, security, and freedom, but to offer them greater welfare and respect for their dignity, as well as giving them the opportunity to satisfy their vital needs and their legitimate rights.

2. We will strengthen the people's organization through civil defense. It will fulfill a mission more in accordance with objectives and possibilities and will eliminate all possibilities of religious or political manipulation directed against the beliefs and feelings of the majority and against our customs and culture. We will seek the cooperation of communities in an intimate fusion of purposes that will include our nationality and, fundamentally, the cultural bases of our ethnic groups and their legitimate participation in the nation's progress while maintaining their representation in the structures of political power within the framework of a more authentic democratization.

3. The state's control and supervisory organizations will have our full support and guarantee for their autonomous exercise. The judicial organization can be sure that we will not hinder its work and that it will continue imparting justice within the bounds of the law. We reiterate our respect and support for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. We urge its magistrates to speed up the electoral process. We have also issued orders for the suppression of the special courts and the Supreme Court of Justice will be responsible for suggesting the necessary measures to guarantee the right to defense to which all citizens are entitled. We urge all state counsellors to help with realistic and positive proposals and not allow themselves to be manipulated by the ambitions of a few. Your advise will be taken into account to the degree that it contributes to the solution of the various problems the country is facing.

We hereby express our absolute respect for the autonomy of San Carlos University and the other private universities. Academic work without sectarianism is a most important contribution to the nation's cultural welfare. The universities must contribute not only to scientific and technical research but also propose solutions that benefit Guatemala.

4. The Guatemalan people have exceptional spiritual and religious resources. We respect their faith and their traditions, and we solemnly commit ourselves to prevent foreign influences form harming their feelings. The multitudinous demonstrations that took place during His Holiness John Paul II's visit are obvious proof of our people's religion.

5. We understand democracy to be not a way of maintaining privileges or traditional minorities which have influenced political activities through economic power, but an opportunity for all people to elect their leaders freely and without pressure. We solemnly intend to (?implement) the electoral process without subterfuge or biased maneuvers. We are determined to effectively respect human rights. Authorities will not spare any effort to guarantee human rights and will punish all who directly or indirectly try to restrict them. Freedom of expression will be respected, and we recognize the news media's informative and orienting role. We appeal to the fourth estate's high sense of responsibility.

6. In accordance with the new spirit of identification with majority interests, we reassert that we support all processes of gradual and democratic change in order to guarantee a fairer distribution of wealth. We will give preferential attention to the interests of producers who farm the land, as well as their associative, cooperative, or community organizations which seek Guatemala's integral development. We will consider the possibility of introducing certain amendments to tax reform laws recently issued, in order to watch over the majority's interests.

Mindful of international commitments, we hereby declare our commitment to comply strictly with international agreements, commitments, and obligations. We declare our deep concern over the crisis affecting the Central American region, and state that to the best of our ability, we will help to find formulas of understanding to prevent aggravation of the crisis and eventual military confrontation in the area. We follow with interest the efforts carried out by the governments of the so-called Contadora Group, and we note U.S. efforts to initiate a fruitful dialogue between the conflicting parties. We assert that ultimately it will be the Central American peoples themselves who will make the decisions that allow realization of peace and security in the region.

Fellow citizens, the Guatemalan Army trusts in each and every one of you so that we can serve the homeland as it rightfully deserves. Thank you very much.

Mejia Holds Press Conference

PA082242 [Editorial Report] Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish at 2026 GMT on 8 August 1983 begins live coverage of a 9-minute press conference by General Oscar Mejia Victores, the new Guatemalan head of state, from an unidentified location. The broadcast is poorly heard, due to audio problems at the source. Most of the questions are indistinct, but audible portions of Mejia Victores' answers indicate that General Efrain Rios Montt, his predecessor, "will remain a general on inactive status," and that the government and Army structure will remain unchanged, "because it is too early to talk about changes; instead, we will all have to work together."

Asked whether there were any casualties in the coup, Gen Mejia said that "due to the nervousness of the members of the presidential guard at the moment, I think that two civilians were injured and one was killed, and that two enlisted men and one officer were injured."

On whether the deposed Gen Rios Montt was ousted, Gen Mejia Victores said: "He was not ousted directly; it was recommended to him that he withdraw from command." He also said that the state of alarm will be lifted "tomorrow." The general said that he does not believe there are political groups among the military commanders and indicated that people would not be sent into exile under his government, because "all Guatemalans have the right to live in their country."

On other subjects, Gen Mejia said that the country will enjoy freedom of expression and that there will be changes to the tax package, within the short term, "after a study of the situation."

On elections, Mejia Victores said: "The calendar for elections has already been scheduled." He said that this was announced some 8 days ago, and "we will respect that calendar."

Asked if he will hand over the government to civilians, Mejia Victores said: "No, to an elected president." He added that usually, when there is a change of government, there is some resistance, but this time it was understood that the time was right to define the situation.

On the fate of Gen Rios Montt's military advisers, Gen Mejia Victores said: "A decree will be issued soon stating that their services will be dispensed with. They will not be my advisers."

Asked if it is true that Rios Montt had assumed the presidency solely on his own authority, Gen Mejia Victores answered: "Since that was a coup d'etat, it was a different matter from the change of authority that is taking place now."

Asked about his present position, the general defined it as "head of state and minister of defense. I cannot be president, because I believe that a president must be elected by the people." On whether the special courts would be eliminated, he said: "I have said so emphatically."

Biography of Mejia Victores

PA090110 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2353 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala, 8 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The 53-year-old General Oscar Mejia Victores, new president of Guatemala, has a perfect record of service with the armed forces, which he has served for 35 years. Mejia Victores, the father of two, was considered one of ousted President General Efrain Rios Montt's most trusted men.

According to close colleagues, the new president is firmly anticommunist and an ardent member of the Catholic faith, in contrast to the Protestant evangelical faith followed by Rios Montt.

Mejia Victores attained the rank of brigadier general in June 1980, and as such occupied the position of commander of the "General Justo Rufino Barrios" Military Zone in the capital. He later held the post of armed forces inspector general, the position he held when Rios Montt took power in the 23 March 1983 coup.

The man who held the leading role in the 10th coup in Guatemala in the last 63 years was also deputy defense minister and acting defense minister, before taking over the Defense Ministry, a position he holds to this day, when he was named president.

Mejia Victores received numerous decorations and distinctions in years of service during which he improved his military training, frequently in Mexico.

A curriculum vitae provided by the Armed Forces Public Relations Office indicates that Mejia Victores speaks only Spanish, although he has traveled and has visited the United States, Mexico, El Salvador, and Panama.

General Oscar Mejia Victores was president of Guatemala for 48 hours of 4 December 1982, when Rios Montt visited U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The new "strongman" of Guatemala is known for his corpulence. He rolls the shirtsleeves of his uniform far above the elbow. He is an inveterate smoker, and has some speech problems.

Army Launches 'Recovery'

PA081934 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1917 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Once again, the Guatemalan Army, to a man, without ambition or desire for profit, has made a momentous decision for Guatemala, knowing that love for the fatherland comes before subordination to a man, and that hierarchy, discipline, respect, and loyalty are a two-way path that must be observed by both superior to subordinate and subordinate to superior. Imbued above all, with a patriotic and nationalist spirit, it decided to carry out a corrective measure that will permit the recovery of the nation and the healing of the wounds caused by those who, by themselves, decided to take Guatemalans to extremes they had never known.

23 March Aims Cited

PA082155 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2043 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Throughout our history, at a particular critical moment for our country, the Guatemalan Army has had to make decisions or take stands which, in retrospect, were justified and supported by the people.

Today, 8 August, the circumstances created by a religious group which openly influenced the country's economic, social, and political spheres, thus dividing the Armed Forces and attempting to perpetuate itself in power indefinitely, have forced the brigadier general, minister of national defense, to assume the leadership of the government on behalf of the Army through the Military Commanders Council for the sake of Guatemala in general and not of a particular small sector, thus redirecting the government toward the purposes and objectives that were outlined in the proclamation of 23 March 1982.

Army 'Certain' of Support

PA082206 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] In our national life, all Guatemalans are responsible for taking care of the homeland. The Army is primarily responsible for it. However, it is not the only party responsible. For this reason, the military institutions and the civil defense, through their self-defense patrols, are proud to lead the country, with the utmost certainty that the Guatemalans who lead different sectors will support us and will follow us on our path, certain that we are doing the best for the homeland and that which is most beneficial for all Guatemalans.

People Told To Stay Calm

PA082154 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2137 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] The normal development of a society implies various changes.

They occur at their own time and assume their own characteristics. In the face of these changes, citizens can and must remain calm as long as they are carrying out their duties -- whether at work, school, on the farm or engaged in any other task that is beneficial for the development of Guatemala. Therefore, they must not lag in their efforts, since they have the necessary guarantees to carry out their activities normally.

Business, schools, factories, public services, and government offices must keep their schedules and personnel services without exception, with the usual timeliness and efficiency.

Previous Actions To Be Reviewed

PA090123 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0004 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] A series of attitudes adopted by those who manipulated the country's policies led the people to distrust and fear, which stimulated subversion, discouraged the country's production, and portrayed a negative image abroad. Many of the actions taken in the past few months will have to be reviewed to determine if they were negative for Guatemala. Good actions will also be reviewed, particularly the steps taken to facilitate a return to constitutionality. This constitutionality will be preserved and enforced in order to guarantee the peace and tranquillity the Guatemalans need.

Relations With U.S. Viewed

PA082249 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2152 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Washington, D.C., 8 Aug (EFE) -- Guatemalan diplomatic sources in Washington today announced that it is predicted relations between the United States and the new Guatemalan regime of Oscar Humberto Mejia will be "much more fluid than with the former military government."

The sources mentioned the meeting last week between General Mejia and his Honduran colleague, Gustavo Alvarez, and General Paul Gorman, commander of the U.S. Southern Command.

The sources mentioned the possibility that U.S.-Guatemalan ties will be strengthened because the new regime has guaranteed that it will continue the return to democracy and will continue to struggle to eradicate "Marxist-Leninist subversion."

The Guatemalan diplomatic sources stated today that within the context of the U.S. military strategic plan for Central America, the new Guatemalan regime will be "a better ally" for the United States than the Rios Montt government.

They added that General Efrain Rios Montt avoided a direct commitment to the U.S. Pentagon, despite the fact that he requested military materiel, especially spare parts, to be used in his alleged military nationalistic policy. The sources stated that the overthrown soldier intended alleged keep Guatemala neutral in the Central American crisis.

According to the diplomatic sources, the military pressure on Rios Montt became stronger about a month ago, when he was asked to resign.

From the moment this wish was expressed by those who today are in the government, Rios Montt began to agree to the elimination of advisory posts held by mid-and lower-level military personnel.

The Guatemalan diplomatic sources also reported that the overthrown officer today agreed to transfer to civilians the responsibility for handling the special courts created to judge those in opposition to the government.

In less than 6 months, the special courts have sentenced to death at least 15 persons who opposed the military regime.

C.A. Leaders React to Coup

PA082300 Paris AFP in Spanish 2211 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 8 Aug (AFP) -- Commander Daniel Ortega, commander of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, today declared that the coup d'etat in Guatemala might be related to the U.S. plans "seeking to directly compromise that country in an action of aggression against Nicaragua."

Ortega said that he will have to wait until the situation clears up in Guatemala "to know if this coup responds to these plans of the Reagan administration." The Sandinist leader spoke briefly to newsmen regarding the Guatemalan coup after receiving representatives of the National Commission of Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, with whom he discussed the case of the Miskito Indians who are in Honduras and "want to return to the country."

For his part, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, when asked about the coup d'etat against Efrain Rios Montt, said that it "would be premature" to give opinions on what happened in Guatemala. However, Monge indicated that "we have always wanted the greatest political stability for our countries and the greatest impetus for the democratization programs and democratic institutionalization processes." He added that for the time being "we do not know the intentions of the new group that has assumed the government in Guatemala."

Salvadoran military and government circles preferred not to give an opinion on the developments in neighboring Guatemala, indicating that "the situation is still too obscure."

The presidential candidate of the Salvadoran Christian Democrats and former president of that country, Jose Napoleon Duarte, said that the coup d'etat "might have negative repercussions for the process that is underway in El Salvador." In the opinion of the former president, anything that happens now in the Central American countries affects the Salvadorans in some manner. According to Duarte, the Guatemalan military proclamation "embodies the concept that the military feels responsibble for, master of, and in control of the institutional life of Guatemala, which produces permanent destabilization and leads to vulnerability, even within the Armed Forces itself."

Exiles Respond to Coup

PA090113 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2344 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 8 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Official spokesmen for the Democratic Front Against Repression (FDCR) in Guatemala gave ACAN-EFE the first reaction from a Guatemalan opposition sector to today's coup d'etat in which General Efrain Rios Montt was replaced by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores.

The FDCR spokesmen said that "the military uprising that took place in Guatemala this morning against Gen Efrain Rios Montt is the result of the conflict within the country's power circles that is becoming more acute, which is in turn the result of the failure of the governemnt's strategic objectives."

"These objectives," according to the opposition declaration, "were to defeat the revolutionary movement and resolve the economic crisis, areas in which the previous government failed."

The Guatemalan opposition leaders added that, concerning the first objective, "it is obvious the government has not been able to carry out its program successfully. The guerrillas' military forces are intact and the Guatemalan revolutionary organizations have announced an upsurge of revolutionary activity."

The FDCR spokesmen said that the second basic objective of the Rios Montt plan was "to reactivate the economy, and in this area all private sectors were interested. But the methods and measures employed by the president clashed with the interests of the country's economically powerful sectors."

Moreover, they noted, on 4 August Rios Montt announced that the government was studying an agrarian reform plan drafted by the Agency for International Development (AID), which clearly clashed with the interests of the large agricultural and livestock producers and "may have been the final spur in the campaign against President Rios Montt."

In conclusion, the spokesman said that the sectors which emerged as the main figures at the beginning of the campaign lead one to believe that the uprising this morning was led by rightwing members of the Army, since General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, "a friend of the National Liberation Movement (MLN)," in the words of Hector Aragon Quinonez, the party's deputy leader, was the first to sign the porclamation of the uprising.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES NEW GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT

PA090135 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0119 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government today recognized the new Guatemalan Government headed by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores.

The Honduran Foreign Secretariat announced that the Guatemalan Government requested recognition, "expressing its determination to fulfill international commitments assumed by the former government."

The new Guatemalan Government also told the Honduran Government that it will take the necessary measures to continue the process of a return to a constitutional system within a de jure state.

For its part, the Honduran Government, on granting its recognition, underlined in the diplomatic note "the purpose explicitly stated: that the new Guatemalan Government will adopt all those actions that will permit establishment of a constitutional and democratic regime."

RELIGIOUS GROUPS SAY REPRESSION INCREASING

PA090025 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 6 Aug 83 p 11

[By Teresa Gil]

[Excerpt] Honduran religious organizations charge that military repression has increased in their country. They claim that this situation has become obvious with the disappearance of 60 people in the past few months and the murder of 200. There is also evidence that some 150 Central Americans have been kidnapped in Honduras by paramilitary groups of the state's so-called "security corps."

Documents issued by the Christian Commission for Human Rights in Honduras, the Christian Movement for Justice, and the Information Center of Honduras -- which is composed of members of religious orders and lay persons -- report continual harassment of popular movements speaking out against abuses, raids, illegal arrests, jailing and torture of, in particular, labor leaders. These documents note that labor leaders Dagoberto Padilla, Angel Alvarado, Alcides Mejia, and Ismael Escoto of the trade union of the Agriculture and Livestock Company of Sula were murdered and several university students and peasants kidnapped.

The documents also note that the economic situation in that country is critical: 250,000 persons are unemployed and another 400,000 underemployed. The documents claim that as a result of current government policy, agrarian reform is practically paralyzed and 145,000 families have neither land nor credit. At the other extreme, 258 large landowners own 70 percent of the best land.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA LINKS U.S. WARSHIPS TO GUATEMALAN COUP

PA090120 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Nicaragua believes that the toppling of General Efrain Rios Montt may be linked to the movement of U.S. warships in Central American waters. This was stated by Junta Coordinator Commander Daniel Ortega, who added that imperialism is closing in on the area to proceed with its acts of aggression against Nicaragua. Commander Ortega said that the Reagan administration has been making efforts to create a situation that would directly implicate Guatemala in an action against Nicaragua.

MANEUVERS SEEN AS U.S. 'GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY'

PA090512 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 4 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] Gunboat diplomacy, the chief component of which is permanent military intimidation, is being used by the United States in Honduras. While President Reagan creates special commissions and sends personal envoys on alleged peace missions, the largest military maneuvers in Latin American history are being carried out just off the Nicaraguan coast and in Honduran territory, in order to frighten Nicaragua and to convince U.S. political circles of the effectiveness of this type of diplomacy. However, the Reagan administration has not yet achieved it objectives, and public opinion in this country, as well as in opposition political circles, continues to condemn this policy of threats. The aggressive nature of the so-called "Big Pine II" maneuvers is clearly shown by the military deployment detailed in the news dispatch that follows.

Tegucigalpa -- The Honduran Government yesterday confirmed that a total of 10,000 troops will participate in the joint military maneuvers between Honduras and the United States, which are scheduled to begin this month and continue until the beginning of next year in two areas bordering Nicaragua.

The maneuvers, which include tactical infantry training, coordination of fire support, and management of amphibious operations, will be carried out in Mosquitia, on the Honduran Atlantic coast, as well as in the Gulf of Fonseca in the Pacific, according to Denfense Minister Colonel Amilcar Castillo Suazo.

Some 6,000 Honduran soldiers and approximately 4,000 U.S. troops will take part in the operation, coordinated by 40 members of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Command on different dates and in different operations, a government report issued yesterday revealed. The aim of the exercises, the report pointed out, "is to improve the training of U.S. forces which are participating in the maneuvers, and to increase the defensive capacity of Honduras."

The U.S. Air Force will also participate in advance control operations, while an air bridge will support the movements of several training, supply, and equipment units, the report states. The defense minister also said that the presence of the U.S. Navy, whose fleet in Central American waters is headed by the aircraft carrier Ranger, should be increased. The report adds that the field training exercises will be supported by Honduran and U.S. helicopters.

The command group that will coordinate the maneuvers will be organized as a joint task force that will be located near the training sites, the communique pointed out.

This series of exercises is a continuation of the Ahuas Tara I (Big Pine I) maneuvers which were carried out last February, also in the Mosquitia. In that operation, some 3,000 Honduran soldiers were deployed to the Mosquitia region by land, sea, and air.

ORTEGA ON WILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH U.S.

PA081332 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator to the government junta, told foreign newsmen yesterday that talks with the United States could begin as soon as the Americans remove the threat of war from our coast and stop setting traps for us.

He added that if the United States really wants to find a peaceful solution to the region's crisis, it must stop its escalating intervention in Central America. Nicaragua has not established any conditions. We have said that we are willing to hold discussions, both within the framework of Contadora and with the United States, to find a peaceful negotiated solution, but there must be guarantees of Nicaragua's security, Commander Ortega stressed.

Conditions for Negotiations

PA090010 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has accused the U.S. Government of trying to solve Central American problems with cannons and cents. The Sandinist leader stressed that Nicaragua is not optimistic about current U.S. policy -- which includes a stated intention to negotiate and the simultaneous application of pressure -- in other words, it is using the famous theory of negotiating on the brink of war.

Ortega challenged Washington to grant $5 billion to Central American countries to solve the grave social-economic crisis in the region. He added that this amount is nothing compared to the thousands of billions of dollars that the U.S. invests in arms production.

Ortega reaffirmed that Nicaragua is willing to discuss on an overall basis the withdrawal of all foreign military advisers from Central America, but added that it will first need guarantees for its own security. As soon as the United States gives us this guarantee, we will be in a position to begin talks on the status of foreign military advisers in Central America.

At a ceremony to welcome 300 Nicaraguan students returning from Cuba after completing various technical courses, Ortega expressed his gratitude for the fraternal collaboration and solidarity that Nicaragua received from Cuba and other countries.

DANIEL ORTEGA RECEIVES MEXICAN OFFICIAL

FL051736 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, has noted in Managua the solidarity and constant cooperation that Mexico has extended to his country.

Upon receiving the Mexican secretary of energy, mines, and parastatal industry, Francisco Labastida Ochoa, who was accompanied by Sandinist Commander Henry Ruiz, minister of planning, Daniel Ortega expressed thanks for Mexico's efforts, especially those of its president, Miguel de la Madrid. He highlighted the cooperation that Mexico has provided, especially in these difficult moments for the region, and pointed out that this cooperation extends to the economic, social, cultural, and scientific fields. Ortega gave particular emphasis to the efforts that have been made in the search for peace.

Labastida, who is in Managua for the ninth meeting of the OLADE Ministers' Committee, conveyed greetings to Commander Ortega from the Mexican president.

D'ESCOTO REPORTS ON MEETING WITH CHEYSSON

PA052114 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto returned from Panama last night after meeting with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson at Omar Torrijos Airport.

Upon arrival at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, Foreign Minister D'Escoto said that France has a firm and clear position. He described his meeting with Cheysson as very positive.

Cheysson, who was traveling to Cuba following a visit to Colombia, stated in Bogota that the problems of Central America cannot be solved with cannons. The French minister added that the way in which the North Americans view the current situation in Central America is too limited and noted that the Central American conflict existed long before Lenin's revolution.

For his part, the Nicaraguan foreign minister said that he used the opportunity of meeting with an old friend to brief him on the Nicaraguan proposals for guaranteeing the security of the region's countries and for reestablishing peace.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL GROUP ENDS VISIT, DEPARTS

PA082010 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The members of a delegation representing the People's Permanent Tribunal today left for another destination after staying here for 8 days. Before leaving the terminal at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, the delegation, which came to Nicaragua to investigate the current situation, said that an authentically revolutionary process is underway in our country, that human rights are respected here, and that the institutionalization of political parties is guaranteed. During their stay in this country, the tribunal's members met with various government authorities. They also visited the border area.

NEW CHIEF OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS APPOINTED

PA081453 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Captain Tomas Maldonado Perez was appointed chief of the Border Guard troops over the weekend. He replaces Guerrilla and Brigade Commander Francisco Rivera Quintero, "El Zorro," who has become commander of the second military region of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS]. Commander Rivera Quintero, in turn, replaces Brigade Commander Hilario Sanchez, a valuable FSLN fighter who drowned early this year. A Defense Ministry report indicated that Commander Roberto Calderon has been confirmed as EPS chief of staff for the second military region.

MISKITOS 'FORCED' INTO OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES

PA050427 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Five Miskitos from Zelaya Norte testified today at the Morava Church in Managua on the counterrevolutionary activities that they were forced to carry out against our people from Honduran territory. They were identified as Isquel Castrellon, German Davis, Mauricio Espinosa, Milton Jays, and Gabino Valle.

Speaking to local and foreign reporters, Milton Jays said that the counterrevolutionary Steadman Fagoth forced him to leave his community in 1981 and receive training at the Mocoron camp in Honduras for the purpose of launching attacks on our people. Similar statements were made by other Miskitos before members of the National Human Rights Defense and Promotion Commission.

The horrors of the Somozist camps were described by the five humble Miskitos, who were able to escape their captors and hold a news conference on the subject at the Morava Church this morning. The Indians were presented by the National Human Rights Defense and Promotion Commission, which looks after the welfare of the Miskitos, who have been savagely attacked by imperialism through the Somozist mercenaries.

PSD PROPOSAL TO FSLN LABELLED 'COUP ATTEMPT'

PA051710 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Agustin Jarquin, secretary general of the Social Christian Party, has announced that the Social Democratic Party [PSD] has issued a document asking the revolutionary government to reorganize the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Jarquin denied that his party sent that request to the junta and the State Council -- it was the PSD.

According to the PSD document, the party demands that the revolutionary government reorganize the government junta to include one member from the Patriotic Front for the Revolution [FPR], one from the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board, and one from the private sector. It also demands that representatives of the Communist Party and the private sector be included in the State Council.

It is very strange that the PSD issued this demand for reorganization alone, instead of making such a demand together with the other members of the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Democratic Conservative Party [PCD] and the People's Social Christian Party [PPSC] have rejected the PSD proposal. In the face of this illogical demand, these leaders have registered their disagreement with it. Cesar Delgadillo, leader of the PPSC, which is a member of the FPR, maintained that the PSD demand is not even worth analyzing, since the revolutionary process is becoming institutionalized and is planning elections for 1985. In addition, Hernaldo Zuniga Montenegro, member of the PCD National Council, said that the PSD demand violates the country's basis statute and is thus a coup attempt against the government.

Commentary Rejects 'Bogus' Proposal

PA081944 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 83

["Beyond the News" commentary]

[Text] According to the Social Democratic Party [PSD], the U.S. is not involved in any acts of aggression against the Nicaraguan people. Viewing the antihistoric proposal made by the so-called PSD, which requested or suggested the reorganization of the government junta and the inclusion of the Nicaraguan Communist Party and the private sector in the State Council, one would initially have to ask the PSD leaders how many worker and peasant members of the party were involved in drafting such a bogus proposal. It must be admitted that it would not take long to list the membership of the PSD. The PSD has neither the social base nor sufficient strength to tell the FSLN what it should do with the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction at a time when the political parties law is under debate.

The PSD members stated: We are convinced that peace has not yet been established in our homeland and we believe that the Nicaraguan people have lived in a psychological state of war alert for many years now. In the 6-page proposal, the PSD does not condemn the Reagan government's economic, political, or military actions against the Sandinist revolution.

To the PSD, the supply of weapons to the former Somozist guardsmen in Honduras and the increase in military and economic aid to the Honduran and Salvadoran Armies do not constitute a threat to the peaceful work of our people. U.S. Governments have invaded our countries for many years and it is they who are responsible for the current state of war in Central America. But the so-called PSD does not want to bother with this. As a result, it has taken a position that is submissive to U.S. interests.

Before stating that peace has not been established in our homeland, why didn't it get in touch with the mothers and relatives of the heroes and martyrs who died defending the country from armed attacked by the units and task forces of the former Somozist guardsmen?

Those Nicaraguans would probably have told it about the sorrow involved in losing our peasants, workers, old people, and children on the northern and southern borders.

Another point in the PSD proposal is a recommendation that the Armed Forces be apolitical and dedicated solely to the defense of the nation. It forgets that the time is long gone when the dictatorship proclaimed that the National Guard was apolitical, and that it is exactly because our revolution took place, even though it distresses the PSD and the remnants of the past that the men in the military will, by right, be political.

The PSD also proposed unlimited freedom of worship. We must tell those gentlemen that, as the FSLN stated in 1981 in a clarifying document, there is already full freedom of worship in Nicaragua. This has been recognized all over the world, in view of the fact that all sorts of denominations practice throughout the nation.

The PSD also asked the government junta to suspend the state of national emergency, ignoring the fact that as long as there are plans for invasion and destruction of the Sandinist people's revolution, the state of national emergency will be maintained and the people's weapons will defend the revolutionary process.

The nerve with which the PSD has made its proposals shows that its members do not live in Nicaragua and that they seek the return of the Nicaraguan people's assassins without the state of emergency. The PSD also requested a general amnesty for political prisoners. Gentlemen of the PSD, there are no political prisoners. The prisoners are war criminals whose treatment at the hands of the national penitentiary system is an example to the world. It has left lawyers, journalists, writers, congressmen, and international organizations impressed by the generosity of the Sandinist people's revolution. Something else, gentlemen of the PSD, you must realize that in this revolution of the poor and the oppressed, you will have no opportunity to win in any general election, because the people have cast their vote for freedom, justice, and peace and will defend them with weapons in hand.

PCD FAVORS DIALOGUE FOR REGIONAL PEACE

PA080447 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0045 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 7 Aug (DPA) -- The rightwing Nicaraguan Democratic Conservative Party (PCD) today announced that it favors the opening of a regional dialogue to guarantee peace and the existence of democracy in Central America. A PCD communique published in Managua states that the recommendations of the "Contadora Group" and proposals of the FSLN of Nicaragua on alternatives to the regional crisis must be considered through multilateral dialogue.

The party, which includes conservatives who opposed the Somozist dictatorship and who currently oppose the Sandinist government, emphasizes that the origin of the crisis in Central America lies in social, political, and economic injustice.

Communists View Negotiations

PA052013 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] The Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCDEN] has proposed what it calls a broad internal dialogue to discuss the negotiations process.

In the latest issue of AVANCE, the official organ of the PCDEN, the party expresses its views on the negotiations.

In the editorial, the Communists warn against the danger of sliding into the so-called San Jose Declaration and claim that two steps must be taken: 1) opening a broad internal dialogue; and 2) making every effort to include and make prevail the proposals of the PCDEN and Nicaragua, and not those of the San Jose Declaration, in the Contadora Group's collective discussions on the region. The Communists state that the forging of unity among the revolutionary parties must accompany democratization.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS ON RECENT CLASHES

PA052142 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Defense Ministry sources have reported that as a result of four clashes in the past 3 days, six counterrevolutionaries, including two leaders, have been killed. Five members of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] also died during these actions.

Among the three counterrevolutionaries killed in Las Palancas, 11 km northeast of Quilali in Nueva Segovia Department, was Mike Lima, second-in-command of the task force involved, who was also known as Sherman.

Meanwhile, three more counterrevolutionaries -- including Salvador Salinas, alias Geronimo, leader of the band which was encountered -- were killed in a clash at El Refugio Hill, 12 km northeast of Quilali. EPS reservists Jose Narvaez and Hector Gutierrez also died in this action.

It was also reported that on the southern border, 5 km southeast of Cardenas, a counterrevolutionary group encroached from Costa Rica and ambushed an EPS patrol, killing border guard Sergio Cortes. The counterrevolutionaries returned to Costa Rican territory after the attack.

Finally, Ada Maria Lopez and Ada Silva, health workers who were members of the EPS Medical Brigade, were killed at El Tembladero, 7 km northwest of San Juan del Rio Coco, in northern Nicaragua.

BATTALION 60-11 DEFEATS SOMOZISTS IN YALI

PA060254 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 4

[Report by Felix Rivera M.]

[Excerpts] Jinotega -- "We definitely beat the hell out of the counterrevolutionaries in Las Delicias, Yali, and forced them to withdraw, even though they were better equipped and had the advantage of greater numbers: 300 of them against 128 of us. No one can sneer at our combat morale and readiness."

This statement was made to EL NUEVO DIARIO by Companero Francisco Chavarria, chief of the heroic Battalion 60-11 of Jinotega, which prevented a Somozist task force from taking over the settlement of Las Delicias and killing the 28 militia members who lived there.

It was 0730 last Saturday when a squad from Battalion 60-11 went to Las Delicias because we had heard that a Somozist task force would try to destroy the 28 families that made up the German Pomares Self-Defense Cooperative, the battalion chief said.

When we arrived, the Somozists had taken practically all of the strategic positions on the hills surrounding the settlement. They had even installed six M-60 machineguns, RPG-7 grenade launchers, Law rocket launchers, and other weapons that Yankee imperialism gives them to kill the Nicaraguan people, Chavarria continued.

A reserve member who fought the Somozists said that once the battalion forced the Somozist task force to withdraw from Las Delicias, the counterrevolutionaries fled in every direction. They were also beaten in Loma Azul, suffering many casualties and losing weapons and equipment to our forces.

OPPOSITION CHIEFS REVIEW NATIONAL SITUATION

PM071924 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 26 Jul 83 p 15

[Joaquim Ibarz dispatch: "Nicaragua's Opposition Does Not Believe That Free Elections Can Be Held in the Country"]

[Text] Managua -- The principal parties of the opposition to the Sandinista government do not believe that free elections can be held in Nicaragua or that the Sandinista National Liberation Front [FSLN] is prepared to yield or share power. Social Christian Party [PSC] Secretary General Adan Fletes and Jose Castillo Osejo, until recently chairman of the Conservative Party and currently a member of its Executive Council, have told us that everything indicates that elections are being prepared in which citizens will be unable to express themselves freely.

Adan Fletes, top leader of the PSC, which is affiliated to the Christian Democratic International, told us immediately that last Sunday a meeting of the party's national leadership was held which decided to declare that the articles approved in the law on political parties do not give it a democratic nature. "We also said at this meeting," he told us, "that so far there are no conditions in the country which make it possible to have confidence in the possibility of future free elections in Nicaragua. We base ourselves on statements by government leaders, who have stated that the elections are not for raffling off power and that they will not be held as in Costa Rica or Venezuela. These and other assertions arouse distrust."

Adan Fletes added that no exact date for the elections has been set; there are no instruments which guarantee free elections nor is there a register of citizens. "We do not have freedom of organization and mobilization, there is no freedom of expression, and we are under a state of emergency, extended until May of next year, which limits all freedoms. All these factors influence our having no confidence." He does not believe that the FSLN is prepared to yield power. "I do not believe in that possibility," he asserted: "They are still afraid of elections. The Sandinistas are afraid of going to the polls."

Adan Fletes wished to emphasize that the support for the original blueprint of the Nicaraguan revolution by the European and Latin American democracies, as well as the political international -- the Liberal International, the Socialist International, and the Christian Democratic International -- has helped, especially recently, to strengthen the possibility of political pluralism.

He told us that 24 hours earlier he had met with Willy Brandt's envoy, Gunter Herterich, who reaffirmed to them the FRG Social Democrats' readiness to continue to promote the revolution's original blueprint.

"I belive that that effort is useful, and we also view it as a factor for the deterrence of war."

With respect to the stance of Felipe Gonzalez government, he emphasized that the Spanish prime minister is well acquainted with the problem of Nicaragua, and added that "we have no doubts that it is in its interest to support a democratizing process in our country."

He also wished to emphasize especially that the PCE is opposed to the counterrevolutionaries' activities on the borders, and he told us that at his party's third leadership meeting opposition was expresaed to violent solutions to the Nicaraguan process, pointing out its condemnation of imperialisms' policy on Central America.

In reply to our question as to whether the "contras'" activities are provoking the radicalization of the FSLN, Adan Fletes said that the Sandinistas are becoming radicalized for two reasons: First because of their ideological conception, which is strengthened by the public confrontation with counterrevolutionary groups.

And with respect to how far the war could go, he stated that "the counterrevolution will not defeat the FSLN, nor will the FSLN defeat the counterrevolution; that is why we say that the Nicaraguan process is becoming Salvadoranized into a military conflict in which there are neither victors nor vanquished."

He is opposed to any U.S. intervention because he believes that "it would be a great mistake for Washington to send its Marines to Nicaragua: International public opinion is opposed to that possibility, and I do not believe that they are so stupid as to do it."

Jose Castillo Osejo, one of the top Conservative Party leaders, received us in the office which he occupies by virtue of his post as director of Radio Corporation, a private station which, he told us, still enjoys the country's largst audience, despite censorship and the obligatory ban on news broadcasts. "Under Somoza," he said, "this station was the bastion of the opposition, and now it is the bastion of democracy. Now we are combatting another dictatorship, and because we believe in freedom and democracy, we must cope with it all."

He rejects the political parties bill, still to be ratified by the governing Junta "because it is not a wide-ranging bill and is representative only up to a point." He is also very mistrustful about the announced elections: "We are very worried that preparations for an election to be held in 1985 are so far behind schedule. There is still no constituent assembly to draft a new constitution, so the country has been governed by decree for 4 years. No municipal elections have been planned nor is there any electoral bill."

Jose Castillo was keen to define in a few words what "we, as citizens, experience in this country":

-- A destroyed economy;

-- A nonexistent mixed economy;

-- A political pluralism in which parties are not allowed to hold public rallies or meetings; in which leaders are persecuted daily, jailed, labeled as traitors and enemies of the revolution and the people; in which citizens' rights based on the emergency law, or state of emergency, have been abolished; in which there is stringent press censorship; in which 24 radio news programs not supporting the government have been banned and in which there is only one daily, LA PRENSA, that is not allowed to report on absolutely anything. We have to send the censors all our program schedules, including music, and they have prevented us from relaying mass Thursdays and Sundays. The ban was conveyed to us by telephone, and I protested in writing to the governing junta.

Next he stated that "I cherish no hope that there will be free elections of the kind found in the Western democracies, which is what we seek." Concerning the hypothesis of free elections being held, he believes that 4 years of mistakes cannot make a party invulnerable, even if it is in power. "An alliance of the democratic parties would result in a crushing victory over Sandinism."

He also emphasized that geopolitics is playing an important role in the definition of this revolution. "The areas of influence," he said, "also play a decisive role; there are too many interests at stake to allow a second Cuba in Nicaragua." Last, he added that, unfortunately, the great friends of the revolution, who yesterday fully supported Sandinism, are today beginning to distrust the outcome of their attempts to achieve real democratization.

ARDE DECLARATION CONDEMNS SHIPS' PRESENCE

PA051739 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1316 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Excerpt] San Jose, 5 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- A declaration "to the people of Nicaragua and the world" signed by Alfonso Robelo, Brooklin Rivera, and Eden Pastora [leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE] condemns the presence of Soviet and U.S. ships in Central American waters because they are hampering the "humanitarian and intelligent" work f those who seek peace in Central America.

The ARDE leaders add that they are fighting both "the current totalitarianism and the Somozist past" through the armed path and are willing to consider dignified political solutions.

VOICE OF SANDINO ON CUBAN 'MERCENARIES'

PA301903 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] While the Central American crisis worsens as a consequence of Managua's totalitarian regime, the presence of Cuban mercenaries in our country becomes more obvious and brazen. We have learned from reliable sources that in the last month the Cuban Government has sent more than 500 soliders to reinforce the totalitarian Nicaraguan regime. These 500 mercenaries bring the number of Cuban military personnel in Nicaragua to approximately 8,000, who, along with another 10,000 troops from other communist countries, represent an occupation army that has brought only misfortune and death to our people and all of Central America.

It is calculated that approximately 3,000 of the 8,000 Cuban soldiers direct the actions taken by the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and the dictatorial regime's security troops. Our struggle, just as during Sandino's time, is directed at expelling the new Cuban-Soviet invaders from our country, because our people will not allow a new intervention disguised as aid.

OVERTHROW OF GUATEMALA'S RIOS MONTT REPORTED

PA081920 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] General Efrain Rios Montt was deposed today as head of the Guatemalan military regime and replaced by Defense Minister General Oscar Mejia Victores, the Army command reported over the radio amid intense troop movements in Guatemala City.

Since early today, Air Force planes and helicopters have been flying over the capital while ground forces occupied the radio stations and other strategic points. The people withdrew to their houses while military patrols moved about the city in a tense atmosphere; shooting was reported near the government palace.

General Rios Montt had been in power since March 1982 and had submerged the country in a real bloodbath.

Party Leader Reacts

FL082319 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2140 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- This morning's coup d'etat in Guatemala will not affect peace negotiations in Central America, Jose Alvarez Bravo, president [as received] of Cuba's Communist Party, has stated. Even though each nation should solve its own problems, doubtlessly the entire world believes this change will benefit the Guatemalan people, the leader said.

Alvarez Bravo arrived here this afternoon to participate in the second congress of the opposition Mexico's United Socialist Party -- PSUM -- scheduled to begin here today and end on 14 August.

The president of the Communist Party of Cuba said he feels that, despite the prevailing unclear situation, the Central American conflict will be solved satisfactorily thanks to the Contadora Group's efforts. He rejected statements that Cuba has advisers in Central America and stressed that his country's only participation consists of providing technical, educational and medical support, never of a warlike nature.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER

Cheysson Satisfied With Visit

PA080445 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, bade farewell to Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, who ended a 3-day visit to Cuba, at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana.

Fidel Castro spoke with Cheysson for more than half an hour in the airport lounge, along with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Isidoro Malmierca, foreign minister. With this visit to Cuba, the French foreign minister ended a tour that included Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, and Panama, which the Panamanian newspaper MATUTINO described as a new and significant phase in French relations with Latin America.

At a press conference he held just before leaving Havana, Cheysson said that the conversations with Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders were positive. He pointed out that his dialogue with the Cuban leader is very important because the two countries are very attached to their independence, and each has its own, different politics. Cheysson added that in Cuba he was welcomed in an exceptional manner and that his satisfaction with all these honors is perfectly logical because, for a modest politician like himself, it is normal that a meeting with a man whose name is a part of history should represent a great moment.

On the Central American situation, Cheysson reiterated the French Government's support for the decisions made in Cancun by the Contadora Group, and its obligation as regards the French-Mexican declaration on El Salvador.

Concludes Visit

FL081206 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, said farewell Saturday evening to French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and his delegation at Jose Marti International Airport.

In the afternoon prior to his departure, Cheysson held a press conference with representatives of the domestic and foreign press. The French foreign minister upheld the position of his government on Central America, namely, that the conflict would be solved only if the countries involved go to the conference table. He emphasized his government's commitment to a negotiated settlement, which it made in the so-called French-Mexican Declaration and, more recently, in its support of the Contadora Group's measures.

On the question of whether he shared Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's concern that the Contadora Group has not mentioned the situation in El Salvador, Cheysson responded that France's position not only includes approval and support of the Cancun Declaration but also, according to Cheysson, it was noted in the French-Mexican Declaration that dialogue is the only possibility of sensibly solving the problems of Central America and El Salvador. He also announced that in the industrial sector, agreements between France and Cuba are about to be concluded for a paper factory and the installation of a plant to produce vaccines.

Saturday morning, Cheysson, accompanied by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, members of his delegation, officials from the French Embassy, and Cuban officials, toured the historical section of Old Havana, where he visited the Castillo de la Punta, El Palacio del Segundo Cabo, and other points of interest.

USSR-CUBAN TRADE TO EXCEED R6.5 BILLION IN 1983

FL051316 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] The delivery of goods planned in the 1983 Cuba-USSR trade protocol amounts to more than R6.5 billion. According to the USSR's foreign trade publication, that figure represents an increase of 19 percent over last year. Interviewed by the publication, Cuba's trade counsellor to the USSR said that trade with the Soviet Union amounted to 70 percent of Cuba's total trade in 1982.

MEXICAN CENTER SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT

FL090051 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] The Jose Marti National Library and the Scientific and Humanistic Information Center of Mexico's Autonomous National University have signed a cooperation agreement in this capital. The protocol was signed by Julio Le Riverend, director of the National Library, and Dr Armando M. Sandoval, director of the Mexican center.

The two sides pledged to cooperate in supplying documents, bibliographic research work, and other information as well as to assist each other in computerizing bibliographic indexes and in recovering scientific and humanistic information. The two officials noted the relations existing between the two centers, which are part of the friendly ties between Cuba and Mexico. They voiced satisfaction with the excellent development of these friendly ties.

COMPREHENSIVE AID PROGRAM TO GRENADA REVIEWED

FL081817 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Cuba began cooperating with the neighboring Republic of Grenada with the dispatch of a brigade of medical personnel, construction workers, and other specialists in December 1979, after establishing a joint economic, scientific, and technical cooperation commission. This initial aid was an exemplary response to a request by a neighboring country in need of aid.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Comrade (Ramon Freire) is the chief of the Cuban economic office in the neighboring Republic of Grenada. Comrade (Freire), please tell us what the biggest impact of Cuban-Grenadian cooperation is on this country's economy.

[(Freire)] One of the most important aspects of the aid that Cuba is supplying to this country is principally in the consolidation of its economy. For this, Cuba has sent several planning board and foreign trade advisers and a unit of micro- or macroeconomy has been created in which a series of activities have been developed, such as the budget and the 1983 plan.

Grenada has tried to orient its economy according to the conditions existing in the country because it has an open economy and needs to establish controls and a series of conditions that will permit the economy to advance. In addition, cooperation has been requested in agriculture, for which Cuba has sent a general adviser to the agriculture minister. Several phytosanitary technicians and agronomists have also been sent because [word indistinct] the soil conditions are very good, which constitutes a great potential for this country.

We believe that we have cooperated extensively in every sector, including the airport, health, and others, but these two cooperation sectors are the most important at this time, and Grenada proposes that Cuba continue cooperating in these areas. [end recording]

Regarding the communications network, at the present time Cuban specialists and technicians are completing an expansion of the country's telephone service with the installation of a modern telephone exchange donated by the GDR, which will improve the service inside the country and overseas. Important cooperation is also taking place in electricity, in which Cuban technicians and specialists are training personnel in Grenada.

FERNANDEZ SEES TEACHERS GROUP OFF FOR ANGOLA

FL051210 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez had bid farewell to a group of internationalist teachers who will depart shortly for the fraternal country of Angola to teach fifth and sixth grade classes at special centers in several provinces of that African countr . At the farewell ceremony held in Alquizar, it was announced that the group is part of the 1,861 teachers and advisers belonging to the Ernesto Che Guevara and Frank Pais internationalist teachers contingents who are going to serve in that country for the first time.

Jose Ramon Fernandez wished the teachers success in their task and urged them to be respectful of the customs, obey the orders of their superiors, and earn the affection and trust of the pupils and education officials of that fraternal country.

DELEGATE SCORES U.S., SOUTH AFRICA IN GENEVA

FL051700 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Geneva -- The second international antiracism conference heard the strongest repudiation expressed against states which practice racial discrimination and those which support them morally and materially. Speaking before the conference, which is now in its 4th day of sessions, Cuban delegate (Luis Pera Vila) said the Government of South Africa, with the help of the United States, is intensifying racist terror in its own territory and in neighboring Namibia.

PUERTO RICO'S SOCIALIST LEADER INTERVIEWED

PA071342 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Interview with Carlos Gallisa, secretary general of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] What recent political incident do you consider important for Puerto Rico's political life?

[Gallisa] Well, I think that now, when we are about to go through the electoral process in Puerto Rico, the political panorama has changed due to divisions within the pro-statehood party now in power [New Progressive Party]. A large sector of this party has begun to form a new party. This sector no longer bases its platform on the pro-statehood policy but instead is following the strategy that Puerto Rico's status is not currently under discussion. It is clear that the pro-statehood forces are currently divided into two groups: those who want immediate annexation and are pressing for it, and those who feel that the annexation movement should be based on more liberal and "democratic" principles, leading the people cautiously toward pro-statehood positions. I think we could say that there is a fascist pro-statehood movement led by Governor Carlos Romero Barcelo, and a semiliberal pro-statehood movement led by Hernan Padilla, San Juan's mayor. This definitely places the people's party -- which has a colonialist stand but also a strong autonomist sector demanding more rights for Puerto Rico -- in a much more advantageous position for the 1984 elections. The Puerto Rican pro-independence sectors are doing everything possible to arrive at a unitary agreement and to coordinate actions so that no one should spare any effort at a time when the political moment is important for the country's future political definitions.

[Reporter] Gallisa, Puerto Rico has been pushing its pro-independence cause at international levels. Very soon, in September, the UN General Assembly will begin new sessions. What are the plans of the Puerto Rican pro-independence movement in relation to the next UN meeting?

[Gallisa] Well, at this time we plan to attend the meetings of the UN Decolonization Committee. We will participate in these meetings once again and will ask this committee to reconfirm its previous declaration recognizing Puerto Rico's right to independence and self-determination. In addition, this year we will mention the remilitarization plans announced by the Reagan administration as a result of the Central American conflict; we will denounce the repressive escalation and the use of U.S. courts in Puerto Rico to persecute Puerto Rican patriots; and we will present new reports on the cultural attacks that have taken place in the past year. These will be the three new points that we will emphasize in our report to the UN Decolonization Committee, which we hope will reaffirm its previous position in relation to Puerto Rico's colonial status and its inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

[Reporter] Are you optimistic that Puerto Rico's pro-independence cause will progress in the United Nations this year?

[Gallisa] We believe so. We think there are favorable conditions that will make this progress possible. We know of the enormous pressure that the U.S. Government places on governments that favor Puerto Rico's independence cause, and we know that this is a very difficult situation for some governments, which sometimes hesitate even though they favor the cause privately. Right now, we are very interested in getting the greatest possible support from Latin America. We want to make the Puerto Rican cause a Latin American issue. As Caribbean and Latin American people, I think that this can be seen more clearly within the Central American conflict. The importance of Puerto Rico as a supporting base for attacks on Central America can be more clearly understood by Latin American peoples. So we think that, in this respect, there is more awareness about Puerto Rico's colonial status and the role it has in U.S. military attacks on the region, and we hope that results will bemore favorable than in the past.

BRIEFS

WOMEN IN CAMAGUEY MILITIA -- Ana Luisa Esposito, member of the party Provincial Committee and secretary general of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women] in Camaguey Province, has reported that over 122,000 women have pledged to join the ranks of the Territorial Militia Troops in response to Yankee threats of aggression against our country. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 6 Aug 83 FL]

CUBAN SOCIOLOGISTS ARRESTED, TO BE EXPELLED

FL061110 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0450 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] Secret service agents of the National Police yesterday detained two sociologists from communist Cuba who had been attending a seminar on the methods and techniques used to study the environment of rural women in the Dominican Republic. The Cubans arrested were Luz Maria Hernandez Santos and Rosario Beatriz Robert Villa. They had arrived in Santo Domingo on 7 July.

According to the Immigration Directorate, the two communist sociologists were engaged in activities incompatible with their tourist status and were, therefore, given until Sunday to leave the country voluntarily. Hernandez Santos and Robert Villa were arrested at their apartment on Cesar Nicolas Penson Street of this capital. They were to be deported today and were scheduled to depart on the regular Iberia Airlines flight, which covers the route between Santo Domingo, Panama, and Managua.

At the time of their arrest, the Cuban sociologists were in the company of the legal consultant to the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo [UASD], Dr Hector Cabral Ortega. It was the UASD which had invited the two communist sociologists to attend the seminar on the status of rural women in the country.

HAITIAN CHARGED WITH ARMS SMUGGLING FREED

FL061125 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0450 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Summary] The judge of the district's Eighth Penal Court, Dr Ramon Martinez Montalvo, has ordered the release of Haitian exile Hilertaut Dominique, charged with attempting to smuggle a shipment of firearms into the country on 22 December 1982. It was then reported that Dominique had intended to smuggle the weapons into Haiti for a coup attempt against the government of Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Dr Martinez Montalvo said he was releasing Dominique because of lack of criminal intent. The magistrate said the weapons brought in by Dominique had not been destined for the Dominican Republic, but had in fact arrived at the Las Americas International Airport owing to an error. Martinez Montalvo ordered the weapons transferred to the property of the Dominican Armed Forces.

BRIEFS

COSTA RICAN MINISTER VISITS -- President Salvador Jorge Blanco yesterday received Fernando Berrocal, Costa Rican minister of the presidency, and Costa Rican Ambassador Dr Rodrigo Jimenez. The meeting was attended by Hatuey de Camps, secretary of state of the presidency; Fulgencio Espinal, administrator general of the National Lottery; and other government officials. [Text] [Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0450 GMT 4 Aug 83 FL]

VICE SECRETARY SUSPENDED -- Vice Secretary of State for Foreign Relations (Cotubanama Dipp) has been suspended from duty for 1 month after a heated argument with Dr Jose Augusto Vega Imbert, secretary of state for foreign relations and his immediate superior. It was reported that for several months the two officials have had serious differences over administrative and foreign policy matters. [Excerpt] [Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0450 GMT 4 Aug 83 FL]

BAHAMAS

CUBAN SHIPS SEIZED FOR ILLEGAL FISHING

FL051545 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Two boats with eight Cubans aboard were apprehended by the Defence Force craft HMBS Fort Montagu 115 miles off Cay Lobos on July 24. A quantity of scalefish and shellfish were seized. The men have been brought to Nassau where they are to be charged with illegal fishing. The Fort Montagu was under the command of Lt Edwin Munroe.

DOMINICA

CHARLES SAYS CSA'S SAVARIN TO REPLACE MINISTER

FL052018 Bridgetown CANA in English 2002 GMT 5 Aug 83

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Aug 5, CANA -- General secretary of the Dominica Civil Service Association (CSA), Charles Savarin, is being considered as a possible replacement for sacked Communications and Works Minister Henry Dyer in the ruling Freedom Party Cabinet, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles said today.

Miss Charles told reporters at a 55-minute news conference she was also thinking about increasing her six-member cabinet to include another minister. She did not say what new ministry was likely to be created if a decision is made.

"...We may have to create another ministry, but the fact remains that we are taking a hard look at this and planning it for actions," the prime minister said.

Miss Charles sacked Dyer Wednesday because she said his performance was not up to expectations, but she stressed today that the lawyer-politician was not incompetent. She also said Dyer was not supporting the party as he should, citing his failure to actively assist the party in a recent by-election won by an opposition-backed candidate.

It was expected that the new cabinet would have been announced today, but Miss Charles said she could not because there was still "much more shuffling" to be done within her three-year-old administration.

Savarin already sits in parliament as a government senator. He unsuccessfully contested a seat in the 1980 general election on a ruling party ticket.

His union announced he had been granted 13 months leave from his post of general secretary.

Miss Charles denied at the news conference that she was contemplating going to the polls before 1985 when the next general election is constitutionally due. Opposition parties here had speculated on the move.

"Quite frankly, I have no idea. I am not even thinking of that. There are too many things to do," the Dominica leader said.

GRENADA

U.S. DETENTION OF JAMAICAN COMMUNIST PROTESTED

FL081308 Bridgetown CANA in English 2133 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Aug 6, CANA -- The Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT) has condemned last week's detention in Miami of communist Jamaican trade unionist John Haughton.

Haughton fell victim to U.S. immigration laws, which provide for the exclusion of communists unless they were issued with waivers.

The GUT, in a statement on the incident, called on the United States immigration authorities to stop what it referred to as the practice of calculated harassment of trade unionists.

The statement described the July 27 detention of Haughton, who is the general secretary of the National Union of Democratic Teachers of Jamaica and an executive member of the Communist Workers Party of Jamaica, as horrible.

The GUT umbrella body for all Grenada teachers viewed the detention as "an indirect attack on workers in the region who are struggling for peace and to obtain social justice."

HAITI

PRESIDENT REACTS TO AIDS, TO DEPORT HOMOSEXUALS

FL041030 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0200 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti -- Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier had an uncomfortable reaction to the accusation that Haitian citizens were bearers of the immunological deficiency syndrome called AIDS and has ordered the deportation of all alleged North American homosexuals residing in Haiti.

On the other hand, the Social Welfare Institute assured that the government will not tolerate any more abnormal sexual behavior and has ordered the closing of several bars and establishments where suspected homosexual practices were being carried out.

JAMAICA

PRIME MINISTER SEAGA PRAISES U.S. CBI TRADE BILL

FL051353 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] "Great news! This could not have come at a better time than this -- in the midst of our 21st birthday celebration," said Prime Minister Seaga in response to the news that the final version of the Trade segment of the CBI [Caribbean Basin Initiative] Bill had been passed by both Houses of the U.S. Congress with overwhelming margins.

"I have been closely involved with this initiative from the very beginning and have followed it every step of the way. Although it has been a long wait, I never lost faith that this most significant part of the CBI package would eventually be enacted. I am happy that the Congress has so resoundingly endorsed the bill with most of its substantive features emerging intact. It is now only a matter of a few days before President Reagan signs this legislation making it into law.

"The Caribbean therefore now has ahead of it an unparalleled opportunity to transform itself into the world's new production centre."

Foresees Trade Development

FL051615 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Edward Seaga said yesterday that Jamaica was qualified to benefit under all the provisions of the Caribbean Basin Initiative Bill.

"There had been one area in which some questions had been raised," the Prime Minister said,"which had to do with JBC [Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation] transmissions from satellite. This has now been settled by me."

In a news release from Jamaica House, the prime minister disclosed that, in preparation for the CBI's passage, steps had already been taken to put Jamaica in a position to enter the U.S. market on a competitive basis. These include detailed studies of "a number of our manufactured and agricultural products."

The CBI marketing thrust would also examine the Puerto Rican market in continuation of the programme of expansion of export marketing into the Caribbean area. A recent study of the Dominican Republic had shown that possibilities exist for Jamaican exports to the market. Further examination was being carried out into the Bahamas and other regional areas, the prime minister said, particularly the State of Florida, which imports much of its manufactured goods.

The prime minister also expressed his satisfaction that in the final version of the CBI ill, all qualifying clauses to the importation of rum from the Caribbean basin countries have been removed. The CBI would therefore now grant unlimited duty-free access from rum entering from designated Caribbean basin beneficiaries, and the way was now cleared for Jamaican rum manufacturers to export to U.S. markets.

BRIEFS

AIR JAMAICA RETRENCHMENT -- Air Jamaica, the national airline, is to discontinue its twice-weekly service to south-eastern Caribbean from Thursday, September 1. The Hon. Pernel Charles, Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, said yesterday that the move was being made in the context of the review of routes and the programme of rationalization of Air Jamaica. It is understood that the passenger market on this route grew by 27 percent in the last year, but that Air Jamaica's average passenger-load on the route for the last few months was still below 50 percent of capacity. Mr Charles said then that the Government had ordered a survey of all Air Jamaica routes to determine their viability, but stressed that "viability" was not to be considered as being synonymous with making money. In April this year, Air Jamaica suspended its Nassau-Chicago 727 service because of "severe losses on that route." Air Jamaica now operates four 727 aircraft and two A-300 Airbuses. [Excerpts] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Aug 83 pp 1, 14 FL]

MARTINIQUE

BOMB EXPLODES IN PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE

FL081351 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] A bomb exploded yesterday in a public works office in Martinique, shattering windows and blowing off part of the roof. The police said no one was injured and no one has claimed responsibility for the attack. The building is located 2 and 1/2 miles from Forte-de-France, the Martinique capital.